# Reward offer for return of Saddlers fan's scarf

**A £100 reward is on offer for the return of a scarf with sentimental value, lost by a Walsall fan on their firrst trip to Wembley.**

David Richards misplaced the red scarf – knitted for him by his late wife before she died of leukaemia in 1995 – on the way to the national stadium for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final.

Jennifer Richards had made it for him while she was undergoing treatment for the illness.

After his losing of the scarf, an appeal was put out on social media on David's behalf, and it has now been shared more than 13,000 times on Twitter and Facebook.

A kind-hearted individual, who does not want to be named, has now offered to hand over £100 to anyone who hands the scarf back to Mr Richards.

Mr Richards, aged 69, said: "I wear the scarf all the time in the winter. Even around the house.

"I feel like Jennifer is closer to me when I wear the scarf.

## Closer

"I took it on the tube and then when I got to Wembley I released I didn't have it with me anymore.

"It was warm so I was wearing it loosely round my neck."

Mr Richards had travelled part of the way by car with his eight-year-old son Archie. His party then took the tube from Rickmansworth and the scarf was lost along the way.

After hearing about the missing scarf, NicholaPrices of London took the tube from Rickmansworth to Wembley and got off at every stop on the way to try to locate it.

Meanwhile, many people on socila media had taken to tweeting a Facebook status from Mr Richards' daughter Kymberley Inions appealing for help in locating the scarf.

Walsall fan David Richards, with a picture of his late wife Jennifer

Semi-retired hairdresser Mr Richards, who lives in Lichfield Road, Cannock, added: "It's amazing how big this has gone on social media.

"To be shared over 13,000 times is amazing.

"I just hope someone finds this scarf and hands it in. It would mean the world to me to have it back," he added.

Around 30,000 Saddlers fans headed down to Wembley to watch Dean Smith's side take on League One leaders Bristol City. Despite the 2-0 loss, Saddlers fans took away with them the lifelong memories of the big day as it was the first time in the club's 127 year history that they played at the home of English football.

Mr Richards' scarf is very long and thick-knitted. It is plain red in colour and has tassles on the ends.

To contact Mr Richards with any information, call his daughter Kymberley on 07976 228001.


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# How dementia care centre will look

Impression of the building

AN artist's impression of a new multi-million pound dementia centre in Staffordshire has been released.

The state-of-the-art facility is being built in Lichfield, with another planned for Burton, though the exact locations have yet to be revealed.

The designs of the buildings have been finalised, however, and the flagship centres will be developed in partnership between Staffordshire County Council and Symphony, a consortium made up of the Accord Group, Keepmoat and Quattro Architects.

Three dementia centres, including Bracken House in Burntwood, will close when the new centres open.

County council health chief Councillor Alan White, said: "These dementia centres of excellence will absolutely transform the way people receive care and support and I am delighted that we have finalised these exciting plans.

"The two flagship centres will create a real home-like environment and offer a support network which will make a huge difference to residents with dementia."

Both centres will create a home-like environment where residents will be able to hold family gatherings, keep pets and have access to communal areas and facilities such as a café.

They are expected to open in 2017.

A total of 135 spaces will be provided at the new centres.

Lakbhir Jaspal, deputy group chief executive of the Accord Group, said: "This is a really exciting partnership deal with Staffordshire County Council and we are delighted to be delivering two new dementia centres of excellence.

"The new centres will bring innovative thinking to the design of homes for people with dementia coupled with first-rate care."

# Surgery to close after search for new site fails

**A DOCTOR'S surgery in Burntwood will close after a last-ditch search for an alternative site in the town failed.**

It was announced last month that Dr I Rasib & Partners' branch in Cannock Road could close because of its outdated and inadequate building.

The news caused concern among patients with more than 150 people turning up to a meeting with Dr Imran Rasib shortly after the announcement was made. But a search for an alternative base was made in vain.

Burntwood North county councillor Sue Woodward said the news would come as a huge disappointment. She said: "I have been in ongoing discussions with the NHS over this.

"I've heard a few people say they are not happy that it is closing.

"Burntwood has been sold down the river. We were promised a new health centre but then last year it was axed. I'll continue to push for improvements.

"It's inevitable that it would close. The premises were completely inadequate.

### Standard

"I've had reassurances from the NHS that extra resources will be provided in other doctors' surgeries in Burntwood."

The surgery has around 2,000 patients. Dr Rasib also works from the group's other practice at Cannock Hospital.

A report to Lichfield District Council's community housing and health committee said: "The Burntwood premises are in very poor condition. A surveyor who undertook a recent independent survey commented that 'the building is one of the poorest I have seen'.

"Since the patient engagement meeting Dr Rasib has looked into alternative accommodation but there was none available that met the standard of a healthcare facility.

"Subsequently, Dr Rasib reaffirmed his decision to close the branch surgery."

NHS England will meet in April to discuss when the surgery will close. Dr Rasib was unavailable to comment.

More than 800 people have signed a petition calling for a multi-million pound health centre in Burntwood to be built.The project was earmarked on the site of Burntwood Leisure Centre but was thrown out by NHS England in 2014.

# Firm snookers rivals – yet again

Goliath MD Steve Hancox (holding award) and the team collected the award from Steve Davis

A CANNOCK firm has been recognised at window, door, and conservatory installation awards evening for the third consecutive year.

Goliath Homeworld's superior levels of customer service earned a hat-trick of titles at the awards, run by Network VEKA – an esteemed group of almost 150 companies that champions customer satisfaction

Network VEKA members are rigorously assessed prior to admission and continuously trained and audited once joining.

The body surveys each and every customer, from all member companies, for their level of satisfaction.

### Praise

Goliath, which operates from Navigation Way, Hawks Green, saw off competition from a wealth of renowned Midlands-based companies to accept the award, presented at Network VEKA's AGM in Stratford-upon-Avon. Six time world snooker champion Steve Davis, who acts as Network VEKA's brand ambassador, hosted the prize-giving and was full of praise for Goliath Homeworld's continued success.

Steve said: "In these awards, every company is competing against the best of the best –so the Goliath team should be very proud to have their achievements recognised for a third consecutive year."

# Youngsters stepping out for Ironkids competition

YOUNGSTERS across the county are stepping up to the challenge of competing in IRONKIDS Staffordshire when it rolls into the region this summer.

Around 300 have already signed up for junior event of the inaugural IRONMAN® 70.3 Staffordshire – with takes place on Saturday, June 13.

IRONKIDS is open to children aged between three and 15 and involves running a course of between 500 metres and 2.5 kilometres at Shugborough.

Kevin Stewart, Managing Director IRONMAN UK & Ireland, said: "We have had a fantastic response to the first IRONMAN® 70.3 Staffordshire and it is great to see so many children signing up for the junior event.

### Backdrop

"The venue of Shugborough is the perfect backdrop and as part of our successful partnership with Staffordshire County Council."

Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment & Transport, said: "Attracting a world-famous sporting event like IRONMAN® is great news for Staffordshire's economy.

"While IRONKIDS might not be as challenging as the main event, it is a great opportunity for more families to sign up to keep fit and healthy together."

Families can find out more about the event at http://www.ironman.com/triathlon/events/emea/ironman-70.3/staffordshire/ironkids.aspx#axzz3EhSAKyXd

# Footballers ready for tournament

AROUND 450 players from 28 teams will take part in an Easter football tournament at Chasteown.

Among those taking part in the eighth bi-annual tournament on Sunday will be players from Lichfield's twin French town of FC Sainte Foy Les Lyon. Players from Chasetown make the return journey every other year.

The tournament was established by Mark Prince, former chairman of the Chasetown Youth section, who still organises the tournament today.

Age groups from under-6s to under-14s will be represented this year. The action takes place from 10am to 4pm and around 1,500 spectators are expected to attend. Entry is free.

Off the pitch, there will be inflatables and food and drink.

# Fellowship hears of Victorian food

THE Men of Burntwood fellowship meet on April 8 from 7.45pm at St Matthews Sports & Social Club.

Dr Chris Upton will give a talk on 'Victorian Food and Appetite'.

For further information contact Keith on 01543 685035.


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# Snap on list for funding to the tune of £25,000

A CANNOCK charity is on the shortlist for an award worth £25,000.

Snap, the Special Needs Adventure Playground in Pye Green Road, provides specially adapted play areas for children with special needs.

Thanks to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and its Enterprising Communities Programme, it has been shortlisted as one of five to secure the funds, which will then be used to reinvest into the charity.

Snap manager Carole Turner said: "We know there is some tough competition ahead of us but we are incredibly passionate about what we do and the service that we are able to deliver.

"The award money would support our ongoing commitment to providing a range of services and to extending our parties, which have become very popular. With funding cuts it can be difficult to secure money so we hope we have done enough with this entry."

Andy Lock, head of operations (England) for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust said: "There are so many worthy contenders for the Enterprising Communities Awards."

The Enterprising Communities Programme, delivered by Coalfields Regeneration Trust, aims to stimulate community enterprise and grow the social investment in former mining communities.

The programme aims to support community organisations to become more enterprising, help them develop new opportunities and secure the necessary resources to realise their ambitions.

# Magical mayhem for the youngsters

YOUNGSTERS in Cheslyn Hay will be entertained by some magical mayhem this month.

The free sessions take place from 10am to 4pm and will see professional performers will teach magic and circus skills to young disabled people aged eight-to-18 years.

The sessions have been set up by the Caudwell Children charity and take place at the village hall, Pinfold Lane, on Wednesday, April 15.

Places are limited. For more, or to book, call Keller McHenry on 01782 600844 or email keller.mchenry@caudwellchildren.com or Caroline Evans on 01782 600263. Email caroline.evans@caudwellchildren.com

Parents are advised to provide a packed lunch for their child.

# Raise issues at annual assembly

HEDNESFORD residents can raise issues at the annual assembly on April 21. It takes place at Pye Green Community Centre, Bradbury Lane, at 7pm. It will include a presentation on dementia-friendly communities.

# HS2 bosses' combined salaries top £5m

Simon Kirby is paid £750,000 a year

MORE than 20 top officials are being paid six-figure salaries at the company behind Britain's proposed high-speed rail link.

Twenty six bosses earn such sums – paid for by the taxpayer – to run the £50 billion HS2 project which is yet to be approved by MPs.

They include chief executive Simon Kirby who is paid £750,000 a year.

Eighteen of the group earn more than Prime Minister David Cameron's £142,000 wage.

The figures released under the Freedom of Information law show that 176 staff members are paid more than £50,000.

HS2 Ltd says hiring the best staff will keep costs of the project down long-term. In total, the 26 executives have a combined annual salary of £5.3 million.

HS2's budget has already risen once from £42bn to £50bn and some analysts predict it will rise up to £80bn by the time it is finished around 2030.

The line will cut a swathe through 45 miles of Staffordshire countryside destroying ancient woodland and wildlife habitats. The 225mph line will join up with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre meaning high-speed trains will stop at Stafford.

Joe Rukin, campaign manager for Stop HS2, said: "These sums are absolutely shocking. We have always said there is a blank cheque for HS2 and this only goes to emphasise it."

Meanwhile, contracts worth £900m to pave the way for HS2 have gone out to tender. The company has announced the contracts will be broken down to three areas – north, central and south covering the line between London and Birmingham.

# Tourists bring in £1bn for county's economy

**LATEST figures on Staffordshire's tourism economy prove again that the county remains a popular destination among visitors.**

The figures were made available to celebrate last month's English Tourism Week.

Last year alone almost 25 million people, from home and abroad, enjoyed day or overnight trips to Staffordshire. This helped generate over £1.1 billion in direct spend on accommodation, entertainment, travel, shopping and food and drink. In addition to this, the tourism sector supports over 28,300 jobs in the county and generates an additional £500 million of associated spend in the sector.

Councillor Mark Winnington, cabinet member for economy, environment and transport at Staffordshire County Council, said: "Staffordshire is a great county to visit with a rich tapestry of visitor attractions that we are very proud of. Tourism plays an important role in our overall economy and our local tourism businesses continue to do a great job, bringing in £96 million a month for the local economy and sustaining tens of thousands of jobs.

## Attract

"We are a county that has something for everyone. We have Alton Towers, one of the country's leading theme parks in the north of the county and Drayton Manor Park in Tamworth.

"We also have a host of other exciting places including the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, St George's Park and the National Brewing Centre in Burton, Cannock Chase and the majestic Shugborough Estate near Stafford which all continue to attract thousands of visitors."

The Trentham Estate is now the UK's fourth largest paid-for garden and last month was voted Garden of the Year in the BBC Countryfile Awards.

Continuous development at Alton Towers with cBeebies Land, new woodland lodges and top of the range treehouses, a second hotel at Drayton Manor, and a major redevelopment of the Wedgwood visitor experience and factory are giving people even more reasons to visit Staffordshire.

The tourism industry in the county has been enjoying record growth in recent years and now makes a significant contribution to the local economy.

Visit www.enjoystaffordshire.com

Molly Mitchell, aged nine, of Shoal Hill, who wrote to Cannock Council over the state of its water feature in Beecroft Road

# Water way for Molly's wish to be made true

A CANNOCK schoolgirl was prompted to write to council chiefs over the state of its water feature when she put in a coin and made a wish.

Molly Mitchell, aged nine, tossed in a penny and wished for a Lottery win.

But the nine-year-old became convinced it would not come true as the fountain and pool were dirty.

The St Luke's Primary pupil wrote to the council asking for the water feature outside the authority's offices in Beecroft Road to be cleaned up. And, this time, her wish was granted.

Molly, from Shoal Hill, made the wish after visiting Cannock Hospital with her mum Gill Coombs, 46.

She said: "I didn't think my wish going to work because the fountain was so dirty.

"I thought it had killed all the goodness of my wish," she said.

Molly also put the letter through the door of Councillor Hyra Sutton, who said: "We cleaned the fountain straight away so hopefully this put a smile on her face."

Mrs Coombs said: "She was upset to find the fountain full of leaves and dirt. I'm pleased Molly's letter has helped."

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Posters are topic of society's talk

MEMBERS of The Landor (Local History) Society were treated to an illustrated talk by Peter Brown on the 115 posters donated to the Canal and River Trust at Ellesmere Port.

Dating from 1785 and 1813 they have been glued into a hand-numbered book and depict such matters as charges for warehousing. The Landor Society is affiliated to the Association of Friends of Cannock Chase.

The speaker at the next meeting, in April, will be Anthony Hunt talking about The History of Horse Racing in Hednesford. Call 01889 586040.

## Sainsbury's wants egg packaging

CUSTOMERS can recycle their Easter egg packaging at Sainsbury's in Cannock from tomorrow to April 14.

The specially designed facility allows customers to recycle the elements of Easter egg packaging – including materials like rigid plastic which not all local kerbside collections accept.

The recycling facilities will be available at 400 stores across the country. The Christmas card recycling scheme collected 88 tonnes of cards which amounted to a donation of £12,276 to the Forest Stewardship Council, helping to protect the world's forests.

## Children handed puppet chance

YOUNGSTERS can learn, create and perform in a three-day workshop at the Prince of Wales Centre.

The Easter sessions are being run in conjunction with Ambient Night Productions from April 13 to 15.

Children aged seven and above can learn puppet-making skills and create their very own hand puppet.

On the final day they will get to write and perform their own show – and get to take their puppet home.

Places cost £30. Call 01543 578762.

## Bargains galore at big holiday market

AROUND 100 stallholders will be at Penkridge Market on Monday.

The bank holiday market and car boot sale will run from 9am to 3pm. Admission and parking are free.

Among the items on the stalls will be fresh bread, coffee, cakes and cheeses, plants, handbags and hardware. The car boot sale is expected to have about 50 people selling various items.

For details call 01785 714221 or log on to www.penkridgemarket.co.uk

## TV duo take stage

CBEEBIES' favourites Chris and Pui stop off in Cannock this month.

They perform at the Prince of Wales Centre, in Church Street, on April 11 at 11am and 2pm.

Tickets are £12 for adults, £10 for children and a family of four cost £40. Call 01543 578762.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER writes: "I was looking at the menu in a restaurant and was wondering what the 'Jeremy Clarkson Special' was. Then it hit me."

AND yes, I got it wrong. In March last year I wrote: " If Clarkson blacked-up and did an impression of Barack Obama singing The Sun Has Got His Hat On, he'd still be unsackable." But that was when we thought Clarkson's downfall might be caused by his mouth, not his fists.

WHAT really depressed me was the number of Brits prepared to excuse Clarkson anything simply because he is a celebrity they liked. I always thought it was part of the British character instinctively to stand up for little people against oafs. Apparently not.

A READER, possibly having been stalked by the annuity vultures, tells me: "A financial expert is a person who explains to you tomorrow why what he predicted yesterday did not happen today."

IT looks as though we won't have to worry about what sort of government we get after May 7. We will get whatever government the Scots want us to have. So what was Culloden all about?

THIS is a good time to be a provincial. First, Ye Great Eclipse blazed in magnificence across the Midlands but was totally obscured by cloud in London. Admit it, did you not smile ever so slightly to see so many miffed Londoners? And then came the procession, lying-in-state and re-interment of a box of bones formerly known as Richard III. It was a joyously provincial affair, sentimental and sometimes a bit naff (did we really need knights on armoured horses?) but well-intentioned and peculiarly moving. And if you doubted for a moment that the London media elite felt this royal event should have taken place in the capital, you had only to hear Jon Snow's slip of the tongue as he welcomed us to proceedings "here in Westm, er, Leicester."

GARDENING just got interesting. A US company is launching a domestic flame thrower capable of squirting blazing fuel 25 ft. Its creators claims it can eliminate weeds and kill insects. And for those awkward tree roots, a B-52, perhaps?

ISN'T it odd that while so many MPs, supposedly the people's representatives, are in favour of HS2, it takes a committee in the House of Lords to recognise this pointless, ruinously expensive scheme for the madcap vanity project it is? The Lords say we don't need it and we can't afford it. Here, in the ermine-trimmed trappings of privilege, is the true voice of the people.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Artists can put work in the frame

ARTISTS can put their work in the picture on a countywide stage.

They are being encouraged to submit their artwork for the 2015 Staffordshire Open Art Exhibition.

The exhibition, now in its 25th year, helps to showcase the wealth of creative talent within the county by giving artists the chance to display their work to a wider audience. The competition is open to artists of all ages who were born in Staffordshire or who live, work or study in the county, with selected exhibits being displayed in the Shire Hall Gallery in Stafford. The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday May 16 and will run until Sunday, July 5.

Councillor Ben Adams, the county council's cabinet member for learning and skills, asaid: "Staffordshire is a talented and creative county and we always look forward to receiving a fabulous range of paintings, drawings, sculptures and much more. I would encourage all of our young artists as well as our more well known ones to have a go."

Artists should submit their entries to the Shire Hall Gallery on April 24 and 25. All works must be original and produced within the last three years. Entry forms are available at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/openart, from the Shire Hall Gallery or from a local Staffordshire library. This year's main prize of £1,000 is being sponsored by SCHOTT UK Limited.

Other sponsors include The Barnett Ratcliffe Partnership and The Paper House, Stafford.

Stafford Railway Building Society is supporting the Under 16's exhibition with three prizes of £50.

# School on the ball for £820k soccer upgrade

Report by Tom Oakley

**A PENKRIDGE school is on the ball for new state-of-the-art facilities thanks to grants of almost £820,000.**

Wolgarston High School will use the money for new synthetic third generation (3G) football pitches and to refurbish changing rooms.

Funding for the scheme has come from two sources. The Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund have both provided £342,803 for the pitch, while a further £150,000 has been given by the Inspired Facilities Fund for the changing rooms.

The grant, secured by Penkridge Juniors FC, Stafford Rangers Juniors FC, Wolgarston High School, South Staffordshire Council and Staffordshire County Council, provides advanced facilities football clubs in the local area.

Wolgarston headteacher Philip Tapp said: "The school and local community will benefit immensely from the much improved facilities, which will also be available to the public and local community sports clubs."

### Training

The new facilities will play host to the majority of Penkridge JFC, which is marking its 30th year, and Stafford Rangers JFC training sessions and matches.

The Mid Staffs Junior Youth League will use the site for mini-soccer fixtures at under seven to under 10 age level. Wolves Community Trust will also use the pitch on a weekly basis to deliver its coaching sessions and inclusion projects.

Penkridge JFC chairman Norman Mence said: "This project will provide an outstanding opportunity for the club with players being able to train and play on one of the best facilities in the region, and ultimately allow us to fulfil its development goals of adding under 21 and adult teams to its roster."

The funding will be further boosted by an extra £320,000 from Penkridge JFC, Stafford Rangers Juniors FC, Wolgarston High School, South Staffordshire Council and Staffordshire County Council.

## Couple blighted by mould in flat

Chris and Gail Jones with the mould in the bedroom of their flat in Littleworth Road, Hednesford

A HEDNESFORD couple say a bungled boiler fitting has led to 'horrendous' living conditions in their flat.

Mould covers the walls at Gail and Chris Jones's one-bed property in Littleworth Road.

Cannock Chase Council, which owns the property, blamed the mould on condensation.

The couple said the mould has caused between £1,000 and £2,000 of damage to furniture and clothes, had made their home smell and irritated their chronic asthma.

Mrs Jones, 48, said: "It's disgusting. Nobody should have to live like this. We are looking to move somewhere else. But it's a one-bedroom flat so there aren't too many other places to go."

She said the mould started to appear a couple of months after engineers from PH Jones fitted a new boiler at the flat on behalf of the authority. Mrs Jones said the workers displaced roof tiles in the process, which she suspected was the root cause of the problem.

The full-time carer for husband Chris, 52, who has epilepsy, maintained the pair had relentlessly complained to the council but the authority had denied responsibility. She said inspectors had even put mould down to 'rising damp' even though their flat was on the first floor.

Ian Tennant, the council's head of housing, said: "A survey has been undertaken by a specialist external damp and condensation company.

"The survey identified that the mould growth results from condensation and not from a roof leak.

"In order to address the problem a complete property ventilation system is to be installed."

# Interim boss given idea of problems facing town

A BURNTWOOD councillor pointed out the 'sights and sites' of the town to the county council's interim chief executive.

Councillor Sue Woodward invited John Tradewell on the tour to highlight both the problems and opportunities for the town.

They were accompanied by the District Commissioning Lead, Wayne Mortiboys.

The tour took in local health facilities, the youth and skills centres, Chasewater, the waste recycling centre and Children's Centres at Boney Hay and Springhill.

Councillor Woodward said: "This was a really good opportunity to show the Head of the service at the County Council all of the issues I'm raising regularly there in order to put things into context.

"We have some real opportunities in the town such as the development of Chasewater as a country park but there are problems with limited access which need to be sorted. We have won the argument to keep our Children's Centres open until the end of August rather than the end of March, but we still face a challenge to retain the community activities for the future."

Councillor Woodward also showed Mr Tradewell some of the highways repairs problems in the town, the currently-mothballed Skills Centre, the need for a proper town centre with improved retail opportunities, the household waste and recycling Centre and the new fire station.

# Police in appeal over stolen van

POLICE appealing for help to recover a vehicle and its contents which were stolen from Great Wyrley.

Offenders smashed padlocks off a garage premises in Landywood Lane between March 19 and 20, and gained entry via the roller shutter door, taking a large quantity of high value Snap-on tools, powered tools, laptop, diagnostic scanner and air conditioning machines.

The stolen van

Two vehicles were taken, – a silver Vauxhall Vectra and a black Mercedes Viano. The Viano registration number X2 AKN, is still missing. Call police on 101.

# Trent Valley history is the subject of talk

GUEST Trevor James addresses the Friends of the Museum of Cannock Chase on April 8. He gives a talk at the venue in Valley Road, Hednesford, on 'Exploring the History of the Trent Valley' at 7.30pm, followed by tea or coffee and biscuits.


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# Auctioneers' gift offers a lifeline for children

AN auction house has donated more than £6,500 to a charity for disabled children.

Cuttlestones, which has auction houses in Penkridge and Wolverhampton, has handed over £6,529 to Cannock-based charity Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children. The money will be spent on local children with disabilities and terminal illness.

One of the beneficiaries was 13-year-old Andy Speke who visited the auctioneers Pinfold Lane premises in Penkridge to show the staff his new powered wheelchair. Andy has spinal muscular atrophy type two and is a full-time power wheelchair user who had outgrown his old equipment.

"Meeting Andy and his nan Beverley was a pleasure," said Cuttlestones managing director Ben Gamble. "He is a happy lad who is going to school every day and battling against obstacles.

"We knowthat the monies raised are going to people who really need it and have often been turned down for assistance through other channels."

Newlife lead nurse Karen Dobson said: "We are glad the equipment we were able to give the family made a difference when Andy needed it."

"We always aim to provide a listening ear for families when they are at their most vulnerable. They need someone to understand their situation and support them getting the help they need when they need it. Even if they are not sure what this is, our nurses have years of experience to help guide them to the best solution."

# Arriva launches new bus service

BUS operator Arriva Midlands has launched a new service travelling from Stafford to Lichfield. The X26 service was introduced on Monday response to calls from customers.

On school days from Stafford the route includes Gaol Square, Milford, Wolseley Garden Centre, Rugeley, Brereton, Armitage, Handsacre, Friary Grange School, Netherstowe School before arriving at Lichfield Bus Station.

Arriva's Dan Flanagan said: "The arrival of X26 shows we have listened to feedback from our customers and are pleased to deliver this new service for our customers making travelling to and from school much easier."

Call Arriva's customer service on 03448 004411 for more information.

# Artwork goes on show at library

HEATH Hayes Art Society stages an exhibition in Cannock Library, Manor Avenue, throughout this month.

Some work will be on sale and will include watercolour, oils, acrylics and pastel. It is open during library hours.

# Liam's fund is about to hit £200k

Liam Keeling died from meningitis

A FUND in memory of a promising young footballer who died of meningitis is about to reach £200,000.

Wyrley Juniors player Liam Keeling died in October 2009 – two weeks after celebrating his 13th birthday.

The fund to raise money for Meningitis UK was set up within weeks of his death by his devastated family.

Now their latest fundraising event – a comedy evening starring Bobby Davro – is set to send the total donations past £200,000.

The youngster, a Year 8 pupil at Cardinal Griffin RC High School, Cannock, was a promising midfielder for Wyrley Juniors under-13s Panthers, feeder club to Walsall FC.

He had just celebrated his 13th birthday when he became ill with a headache and sickness.

## Determined

The youngster was resting on the sofa of his Cheslyn Hay home when he was discovered unconscious and he later died at hospital.

Parents Andy and Georgina have dedicated hundreds of hours to organising events and running the campaign. They are determined to carry on until a vaccine is developed for meningitis. A large part of the money has been raised through Wyrley Juniors FC, where Andy was joint manager.

The evening at Banks's Stadium on April 24 will feature former EastEnders star Bobby Davro with Gary Marshall.

Tickets are £35 and the price includes a two-course meal.

A presentation will be made to charity bosses to celebrate the £200,000 mark being reached.

# Ex-pitman jailed over £150k illegal benefits

**A FORMER miner who illegally claimed almost £150,000 in benefits has been jailed for 18 months.**

Kevin Molineux even lied to his wife about where the money – the equivalent of £10,000 a year tax free – had come from, Stafford crown court heard.

For 15 years, Molineux, of Blewitt Street, Hednesford, pocketed income support, housing benefit and council tax relief without revealing he had a mineworkers' pension.

Molineux, aged 56, admitted four charges of benefit fraud covering a period between July 1999 and March last year.

Judge Paul Glenn told him: "The victims in this case are the honest taxpayers and people who can't obtain public funding through benefit cheats like you.

"Your claims were dishonest from the start."

The judge added the final total for the fraud may be an under-calculation because records do not go back as far as the start of his claims.

"You lied to your wife about the source of the additional income," he added.

In a basis of plea, Molineux said he left the mining industry due to ill health and when he started receiving payment from British Coal he was unsure whether it was sickness benefit or a pension. He accepted, however, he was being dishonest.

## Incapable

Mr Peter McCartney, prosecuting, said the amounts the defendant illicitly claimed were £109,359 in income support between July 1999 and March 2014 and an estimated £40,000 in housing benefit and council tax relief between July 2003 and March last year.

He claimed the benefits on the basis that he had no other source of income and was incapable of working. He failed to disclose to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Cannock Chase Council that he was in receipt of a mineworker's pension.

The fraud was discovered when someone tipped off the department.

Mr Paul Lamb, defending, said: "He knew he was in receipt of some form of payment and whilst it is clear there was some sort of confusion as to whether it was a pension or sickness benefit, he failed to declare it.

"His wife had serious illnesses and he is required to care for her. The impact if he is given an immediate custodial sentence will affect not only him but his wife."

# Subway army gets to work

From left, Melvin Wilkinson , Councillor Diane Todd and Kevin Platt work on the subway

MORE than 100 artists have supplied work to help transform a gloomy Cannock underpass.

The makeover of the Mill Street subway, which connects the Morrisons supermarket to the town centre, has begun. It is hoped to turn it into a vibrant walkway, and the work has now begun.

Wall tiles are being removed to provide space for paintings and handrails.

Heath Hayes and Wimblebury ward councillor Diane Todd, town centre regeneration boss, said: "I am delighted that the work has started on the underpass."

Staffordshire County Council and Amey Plc are carrying out the work.

Consultation was undertaken in January and the results have helped to shape the design concept for the art piece, which will consist of individual artworks reflecting the district provided by professional artists and the local community.

The artwork is now being finalised and the production of some of the tiles has started. The installation of the tiles will start in mid-April and will be carried out by Tiled Space, who transformed the subway in Beecroft Road.

Pedestrians will still be able to access the underpass through the duration of the works., which should finish in June.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## £750 legacy to favourite causes

THE family of a woman who died suddenly have thanked people who knew her for donating £750 for two animal charities in her memory.

When Joan Smith of Huntington passed away aged 76, it was her wish that donations were made to The Dogs Trust and The Border Collie Trust.

Her husband Len said: "In keeping with her wishes, family, friends and neighbours donated a total sum of £750 which is now on its way to both of these charities and her immediate family are extremely grateful to all who made her dreams come true."

## Man trapped as cars in collision

FIREFIGHTERS cut a man free from a wrecked car after a two-car crash.

Two crews from Bloxwich and Cannock were dispatched to the incident on Stafford Road, between Bloxwich and Great Wyrley, late on Saturday night. The road was closed for around an hour.

Upon arrival shortly after 11.20pm, crews discovered one man still inside the wreckage of one of the vehicles, although the driver of the other car was thought to be unharmed.

Using specialist equipment the man was freed and conveyed to hospital

## Panels put police in the spotlight

A NEW independent panel that will see residents examine and shape the work of policing in Staffordshire has met for the first time.

The Cannock Chase Safer Neighbourhood Panel was launched under plans by Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis to shine the spotlight on local policing.

The panels will hold to account each of Staffordshire's 11 local policing team commanders as well as looking at criminal justice and safety issues.

## Sailing for free offer at club's open day

A SAILING club is offering free lessons at an open day this weekend.

South Staffordshire Sailing Club is holding the open day from 10am to 4pm on Saturday at Gailey Lower Pool.

Participants need to bring warm clothes and waterproofs.

Under 18s are along invited to a Push The Boat Out event on May 16 from 10am to 3pm.

Visit www.southstaffssailingclub.co.uk for more information.

## Toddler group meets

THE Little Friends baby and toddler group will be discovering nursery rhymes and characters on April 17. Visitors are encouraged to don fancy dress. Admission is £3 per child. The group meets at the Museum of Cannock Chase, Valley Road, Hednesford, from 10am to noon every third Friday.


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## IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

# Top Gear gone and nothing to tune in for

IT'S time to put the Clarkson debate to bed. If you punch a colleague at work, you can expect to get the sack, no matter how talented you might be. And as for those 'concerned members of the public' who made official complaints to police after reading about it in the newspaper, you really need to find something more productive to do with your time. Like writing poison-pen letters to Points of View. In green ink.

However, Clarkson's sacking does raise a serious issue. Since Top Gear has been dropped, there has been nothing at all on mainstream television which I have any desire to watch. Not a thing.

OK, I still watch the news. And there are some decent repeats on some of the more obscure digital channels – mainly Top Gear now you mention it. And if they ever get round to bringing back The Apprentice, I will probably watch that. Soap operas, period dramas, singing and dancing contests, sorry it's just moving wallpaper. And then on Saturday night Channel 4 came up with what is surely one of the most yawn-inspiring ideas yet, a political drama about the talks leading up to the formation of the present coalition government. What next? Live paint drying?

Of course, people have different tastes, and just because I don't enjoy those programmes does not mean that other people should be denied the chance to watch them. But given that the BBC makes so much fuss about how it caters for the broadest possible audience, isn't something wrong that a pretty average Joe like myself can't find a single programme to watch?

Given that the broadcasters are already excluding certain sections of the population, what exactly is the licence fee for?

❐❐❐❐❐

HERE is something I doubt we will be hearing much about from any of the major politicians over the next few weeks. Over the course of the past three years the Department of Food and Rural Affairs has spent a pretty tasty £420,000 of taxpayers' money killing 88 ducks because their feathers were the wrong colour.

Not that this is a purely coalition extermination programme it should be stressed.The decision to begin exterminating American ruddy ducks actually began in 2003, and between 2006 and 2011 successive administrations managed to wipe out 4,400 of these birds, which are said to threaten the existence of the European white-headed duck. It seems that governments of all colours are united that all ducks in Europe should be the same colour.

It seems that our feathered friends seem to rear their differingly coloured heads every time there is an election on. Last time it was duckhouses, this time it's duck eradication programmes.

Concentrating – Jordan Edwards, 18, from Willenhall

Eyes down at the League of Legends challenge

Competing – 17 year old Callum Fellows

# Game on! Students are in league of own

In training for months, these college teams are in an epic battle for dominance, as JORDAN HARRIS explains

**IT'S an epic battle for dominance. A war to be crowned the best of the best.**

No, it's not the latest Call of Duty release, but a bid by students in Wolverhampton to triumph in the Student Gaming Championship.

They have been in training for months, honing their skills ready to unleash on those who dare to challenge them in the championship and have already passed the first hurdle, beating their initial rivals in a 70-minute battle of wits and skill.

## Strategic

As part of the challenge, a total of 10 students, who are studying for Level 2 and 3 qualifications in games design at the City of Wolverhampton College's Paget Road campus, make up two teams and battle it out against competitors from schools, colleges and universities across the country in a fast-paced game of League of Legends.

The teams go head-to-head in a multi-player online battle arena and have to combine strategic thinking skills and lightning reflexes with co-ordinated play in small-scale skirmishes and intense battles as they seek to destroy their enemies' nexus before their own is destroyed.

League of Legends is accredited with being the largest and most popular online game with more than 15 million players worldwide and around 1.4 million players logging in every day.

The City of Wolverhampton College team beat their first foes in a 70-minute epic.

Keeping a close eye on game progress – Matthew Cullwick, 17

Adam Cross, lecturer in computer games development at the college said: "Taking part in this kind of event takes communication and team work to a different level as players will have to react quickly and adapt as a team to be successful.

"The students are really excited to be taking part and, in preparation, have been devising strategies and organising team building activities and practice sessions to give them the best chance of success on the day.

"Our first match was a close game but I think the practice we had gave us the advantage. We are waiting to hear about the date of the next fixture.

"Now that the first game is done, the team is planning to put in some more practise as we expect the competition to get more challenging."

Applied science student Callum Fellows says the formation of this team has given him a chance to socialise with like minded people while having fun.

He said: "The game is one of the best that is currently out there and it is great fun to watch these guys play against teams from around the country.

"The skills you can get from gaming are applicable in other fields of life, the team work aspect and the ability to analyse decisions you have made with others during a game, go back and look at them again and see where you went wrong."

Game design student Jordan Edwards, 18, from Willenhall, said the competition directly benefits his studies.

He said: "League of Legends is an absolutely huge game that is growing all the time.

"For someone who studies the making of games and the work behind them, it is amazing to see what the developers have done.

"We have to work on the technical side of things all the time, as well as creating stories, scenarios and basically this whole world our game will live inside, so studying something which has had this much success is a real lesson."

## Social

Outside of the work-related benefits, Mr Cross believes the tournament is an opportunity for the group to socialise and make new friends.

During a practice session ahead of their first competitive match, the team banter with each other over character choices, previous bad games and skill levels.

He said: "There is a social level to all of this that people sometimes don't understand.

"When the team is competing against others or even one another, they are cracking jokes, making friends and socialising.

"Sometimes the focus gaming students have on their studies, which also happen to be their favourite hobby, can be mistaken for a communicational issue.

"This team shows we have a strong community here."


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# Runners get set for thrill of the Chase

Philippa Gregory with Ashley Hodgkins, left, and Mark Mundy get ready for the run

RUNNERS are being urged to put on their trainers and help raise vital funds for a children's charity on a popular 10k run.

Newlife Foundation, which has headquarters in Cannock, is teaming up with Mash Running for this year's multi-terrain Chase Challenge.

The route follows a scenic loop around the Cannock Chase area on June 6, starting at 11am.

Deputy fundraising manager of Newlife, Philippa Gregory, said: "Cannock Chase is a picturesque backdrop for this event, which will see hundreds of runners taking on a multi-terrain challenge. We hope lots of people will choose to support Newlife and the work we do with families across Staffordshire."

There is an entry fee of £13.50. Entrant runners are also encouraged to fundraise for the Newlife Foundation, which supports children in the county.

It is the county's largest charity funder of children's specialist disability equipment and also runs only national emergency equipment service for terminally ill children.

Mash Running's race organiser Mark Mundy said: "Last year's Chase Challenge attracted 300 entrants – and 2015 promises to be bigger and better than ever."

"The route starts at Cannock Chase Visitors' Centre in Marquis Drive, Hednesford, and takes in open heath land and beautiful woodland trails."

Fellow organiser Ashley Hodgkins said: "Whether a seasoned runner or a first-timer, the race has something for everyone."

More information on the Mash Running Chase Challenge can be found at www.mashrunning.co.uk or the Newlife Foundation is available at and you can find out more about Newlife Foundation at www.newlifecharity.co.uk

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# Debt has doubled in five years

D Norris (Chronicle letters, March 26) correctly identifies the political motive behind Mrs Thatcher in destroying the mining industry.

It effectively destroyed the trade union movement, who have been locked in a legal straitjacket ever since.

Patrick Mcloughlin, the ex-strikebreaker, now transport minister, thought Thatcher did nothing wrong. He also thinks that HS2 is a good idea and at a cost of £50 billion, trains hurtling around at 200 miles an hour, will bring great benefits to all.

He also thinks his coalition have done a good job with the economy, whereas in reality, they are the most incompetent in parliamentary history.

In just five years they have doubled the national debt to an astronomical £1.5 trillion, thus condemning future generations to unrepayable debt.

**KEVIN WILCOX**
Burntwood

# Hospital made a scapegoat for cutbacks

STAFFORD Hospital has been much maligned over the last few years, but I would like to share my very positive experience there.

My 21-year-old daughter collapsed and was rushed to County Hospital showing all the signs of having had a stroke.

I can only describe the treatment my daughter received as 'superb'. The staff in A&E were caring, compassionate and efficient. A variety of tests, scans were immediately initiated and throughout the night there was constant attention. As a concerned parent I was treated with respect and courtesy and all stages of treatment explained.

In the end we were fortunate, it was not a stroke and there will be a full recovery. However I genuinely believe my daughter could not have been anywhere more efficient than County Hospital.

If the attack had been two hours later we would not have been able to go to Stafford, due to the enforced cutbacks and the department being non-24 hour. We would have had a longer journey to an alternative busy, inner city hospital. This would not have been in my daughter's best interest.

To all those criticising Stafford and seeking to downgrade it, you are doing this area a great disservice. We nned a good local hospital and we already have one in Stafford Hospital. I believe it is being made a scapegoat for financial cutbacks.

**NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED**

# An endless list of election promises

JANOS Toth wants to be 'open, transparent and accountable'. It's just what we need for our MP.

Mr Toth's election promises all seem to give money away. More for pensioners, the NHS, free childcare, reduced tuition fees, build new council homes. The list is endless.

But where is the money going to come from?

Only last week The Chronicle reported about 100 new homes on a former manufacturing plant in Bridgtown which shut 'with the loss of 140 jobs'. Janos Toth pledges 'Minimum Wage £8 per hour'. Will that create jobs or destroy them?

Our politicians promise us everything. Sometimes they forget that someone needs to earn the money that they pledge to spend.

We'd vote for them more happily if they were more honest with us.

**MARK ELLSE**
Cannock

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**POST**
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

**EMAIL**
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

*Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.*

# Village signs erected

RE: Hazel Slade Signs. I am pleased to say The signs for Hazel Slade have now been put in place.

Hazel Slade and Rawnsley Community Association would like to express their thanks to Councillor Christine Mitchell and Mark Keeling for all their help in getting our village much-needed signs.

**I CHATTWOOD**
Cannock Wood Street
Hazel Slade

# Destroying what's left of our NHS

RE: The privatisation of NHS cancer care and end of life care Staffordshire

I am horrified to learn of the above proposal and find it difficult to believe that privatisation will be person centred and not profit led.

We had an NHS that people before us fought hard for and the quality of our healthcare and the professionals involved in delivering it had a strong worldwide reputation.

This proposal will aid in destroying what is left of the NHS.

I have been off long term sick since December and I have received excellent NHS care. I have family and friends who have received brilliant, local cancer care. End of life care for some was provided in a way that respected their wishes and maintained their dignity.

I find it hard to believe we will receive the same quality and excellence of service if put into private hands.

**L MEAD**
Rugeley

# Reminders of turmoil left by government

NO government relishes austerity especially when there is a general election looming. Councillor Paul Witton's letter of March 12 has reminded the electorate once again about the turmoil left by the last Government.

As he as pointed out, in the 13 years they were in government their record on house building was abysmal.

They left the the largest deficit in peace time history along with that the slowest growth in 50 years as well as the fastest decline in manufacturing. Over the same period of time they gave away half of a previous rebate of nine billion from Europe.

On education they languished at the bottom, immigration was a open door policy and the NHS? How can you forget what's not to like? Fiscally they are incompetent

**MR A ALLPORT**
Huntington

# EU trade connections described as tenuous

HAD the English nation been afforded an opportunity to vote in the Scottish in/out referendum, Scotland would not be a member of the UK, and would now be struggling to exist on revenue generated from 'their' North Sea oil.

Neither Wales nor Northern Ireland has an endearing connection with England, except via the exchequer, through which they are disproportionately rewarded. Our trade connections with the EU are tenuous.

I can remember when we advantageously traded with other members of the 'British Empire', and nobody dictated what we could, or could not do, in our backyard. My judgements arise, not from nationalism, but pragmatism.

**A V HARRISON,**
Great Wyrley


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# Backing for completion of £2.9m road scheme

## New take on Edalji case

Dr Alan Jones, seated, who has written the book, with Geoff Hackett, left and Trevor Macfarlane of Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society

IT was famous miscarriage of justice and led to the formation of the Court of Appeal. Now an author has penned his own thoughts on the turn of events that rocked Great Wyrley in the early 20th century.

Parish vicar's son George Edalji was jailed in 1903 for the mutilation of livestock in a case referred to as the Wyrley Outrages. A solicitor, George later enlisted the help of Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to clear his name.

Julian Barnes turned it into a novel Arthur & George and last month a three-part ITV drama of the same name – starring Martin Clunes – was broadcast. In September, a new book giving Dr Alan Jones's take on the case is released.

Via intensive research, he has gathered first hand evidence from a host of sources, all of which is referenced throughout. And he leaves readers to draw their conclusions.

Alan Walker, former Staffordshire Police Museum curator is among those to have lent their expertise. Geoff Hackett, a member of the Brookes' family that became embroiled in the case, has provided an original letter from Sir Arthur.

The Edaljis: A Family In Turmoil will be launched at a Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society speaker's night on September 24.

**THE end of a £2.9 million road improvement scheme in Cannock has been welcomed by council chiefs.**

The project by the Highways Agency at the A5 Churchbridge interchange was completed after seven months – which was later than expected.

The revamp included redesigning the approaches to the islands to ease traffic and the installation of traffic lights on three roundabouts.

Completion of the Pinchpoint project has been welcomed by Cannock Chase Council. Councillor Gordon Alcott, economic development and planning portfolio leader, said "The council has made this one of its key transport priorities.

"After four years of actively working with the Highways Agency on finding a solution to this junction, the council is pleased that its efforts have been rewarded.

### Quality

"Not only will the £2.9m upgrade relieve traffic queues at this strategic junction, but will also relieve congestion and improve safety at this accident blackspot, promote easier pedestrian and cyclist access through the site, reduce delays to bus services and help improve air quality along the adjacent A5."

The junction was last remodelled for the opening of the M6Toll in 2004, but traffic queues built up on the A460 during rush hour.

The high number of accidents and the lack of safe crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists were also a concern and the scheme also improved pedestrian safety.

Work on the retail park is expected to be completed this summer.

Campaigners have been calling for the junction to be revamped for years with South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson criticising it for being 'badly designed' and 'causing gridlock at peak times'.


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# Manhunt after pub raid

POLICE are continuing their hunt for raiders who made off with cash and jewellery from a pub near Great Wyrley.

The gang were believed to have carrying a firearm when they broke into the The Masons Bar and Restaurant, in Stafford Road, Newtown, on February 2 and demanded valuables from the two occupants.

A small amount of cash and personal jewellery were stolen from a 31-year-old man and 32-year-old woman in what police described as an 'aggravated burglary'. Armed police were called. Witnesses should call police on 101.

# £8m homes scheme fit for queen is unveiled

**A NEW £8 million housing development for the over-55s in Cannock has been officially opened.**

Queen Elizabeth II lookalike Patricia Ford had the honour of cutting the ribbon at Chasewood, a new block of 63 self-contained apartments.

She then enjoyed afternoon tea with the residents.

The care facilities have been developed by The Wrekin Housing Trust and Choices Housing Association under ShireLiving.

The development cost £6.5m in investment from the Wrekin Housing Trust, plus £1.2m grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency and £300,000 from Staffordshire County Council.

The facility aims to offer an alternative to residential care and to enable the elderly in Cannock to stay in their own homes for as long as possible. The new development includes private apartments, residents' lounges, a coffee bar and cafe.

Royal lookalike Patricia Ford

## Dedicated

Ms Ford said: "I'm delighted to open this fabulous facility. It really is fit for a queen."

The independent apartments have help on hand if needed and are linked to neighbouring facilities including the Longford Centre community hub.

Councillor Frank Allen, portfolio leader for housing in Cannock, said: "There is always a need for housing for the elderly in Cannock and I very much welcome this type of development.

"I think it is a good thing for the area. This type of development is a brilliant balance for residents who want to keep their independence, but know that there is 24 hour assistance and care on hand if needed. "

The development also has a communal area for socialising and leisure activities are organised for residents. The 48 two-bed and 15 one-bed apartments are part of a £12m community and housing hub.

The Longford development on the old Langbourn site on Longford Road also houses Woodland View respite care for people with learning disabilities and the Longford Centre community facilities.

Other features include a restaurant, pharmacy, sensory gardens and the Alderwood Medical Practice.

The Longford development was opened last month by Staffordshire County Council leader Philip Atkins.

# Foundry liaison group in good neighbour hope

A FOUNDRY ordered to compensate its neighbours to the tune of £1.4 million due to bad smells is setting up a liaison group to foster better relationships with local residents.

Norton Aluminium lost a costly court case when Birmingham High Court ruled in favour of 132 claims brought by neighbours over emissions from the plant in Norton Canes.

The company, which employs 42 people, has recently invested in improvements to its operating procedure to help mask smells and has enlisted the help of Cannock Chase Council to set up the group. Deputy leader Mike Holder, a Norton Canes ward councillor, said the move followed 'issues' with noise, dust and odour from the foundry.

He said: "The company is a valuable local employer, and I want to establish a liaison group in order to provide a forum where any residents' concerns can be properly discussed and addressed.

"I will be meeting with the company shortly and then arranging the first meeting of the liaison group."

Managing director Andrew Fogarty said: "We wish to continue operating a successful business and be a good neighbour."

# 212 items on a piece of 30cm string

**Burntwood WI**

THE March meeting of Burntwood WI was the group's AGM. Members first heard the minutes arising from the last meeting and feedback on the wonderful trip to London to see the show Loose Women which all who went said it was a great day out.

An update on County News was heard and any other forthcoming activities.

The ladies then began the AGM business.

The first item was to appoint an auditor for 2015/16 who was proposed by Anne Simpson, treasurer and seconded by Mary Jarvis – all approved.

Next, Anne gave the financial statement, which was accepted.

The committee's annual report was presented by secretary Judith Griffiths and accepted.

President Gwyneth Howells then gave her overview of the year that had just gone.

She thanked her officers who do such a wonderful job and support her and also gave thanks to trip organiser Sandie Johnstone, Mary Jarvis, publicity officer and all the committee.

All the committee are standing again and Pauline Smith is an addition to the team.

At the end of business, a music quiz followed, provided by Ron Box which proved to be very popular.

The monthly competition was 'How many items can you get on a piece of string 30cms long?' This was won by Anne Simpson who managed 212.

The men's supper wads held on March 21 at Hammerwich WI Hall.

# Sea of green for St Patrick's Day meeting

From left, Dickie James, Janis Lomas, Amada Milling and Tracy Rowley

**SI Cannock & District**

MEMBERS worn something green for the last speaker meeting – on St Patrick's Day.

Members celebrated the work done to support Staffordshire Women's Aid and the Pathway Project by inviting representatives for an update on their work and to present cheques from the monies raised during the year. This amounted to £1,500, which was divided between the two.

President Janis Lomas introduced the guests, Dickie James, CEO of Staffordshire Women's Aid, who said they work closely with Pathway. They in turn were represented by Tracy Rowley.

On behalf of Pathway director Kathy Coe, she thanked Soroptimists for the support they had given to the project over the past 20 years.

Amanda Milling was among the guests at the meeting having joined with Soroptimists to collect items for both Pathway and Staffordshire Women's Aid after the V Festival last year.

She told Janis, Dickie and Tracy how much she admired the work done by all three organisations, particularly as they are all supporting local women at times of great stress and vulnerability.

# Membership numbers on rise

**Ridwares WI**

COSTUME designer John Brooking addressed the February meeting, displaying a fine array of his designs over the years.

His set designing and costume designing has taken him all over the country but he had also worked closer to home at Lichfield Garrick, Birmingham Hippodrome and Shakespeare plays at Stafford Castle. WI member June Ewing needed no persuading to model one of Mr Brooking's creations.

This year's Welsh Tea once again proved very popular in the community, with more than 80 teas being served. Membership of The Ridwares WI has risen and new members being welcomed for 2015. A St George's Day Tea will be held on April 23, to 5pm.

The next community coffee morning will be on Tuesday, April 7 from 10.30am to noon.

The next meeting of The Ridwares WI will be held on April 21 at the village hall. The speaker, Pauline Hardwick, will tell the meeting 'A Yarn about a Yarn'.

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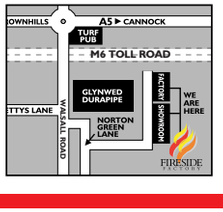

# Goal should be to achieve as an MP

Afzal Amin – resigned

Aiden Burley – retiring

**IT won't be Paxo who stuffs the Tories in the General Election – it will be their own candidates and MPs.**

David Cameron came across as irritable while Jeremy Paxman gave him a roasting in the first of the televised leaders' interviews.

But the polls continue to suggest he's something of an asset to the Conservatives. That is more than can be said for Afzal Amin, who has resigned as candidate for Dudley North after meeting with the English Defence League and discussing the 'fantasy' of arranging a march, then calling it off.

His emergency replacement, Les Jones, was chosen at a hastily-convened meeting of the constituency association. The former council leader was the only name anyone wanted.

## March

Anne Millward, also a former council leader as well as chairman of the Conservative association in Dudley North, said she did not want a candidate from outside 'foisted' on the party.

The only hope the Tories have of making up their lost ground is to have someone who knows everything there is know about the patch.

Afzal Amin had two years to get to know it. And he was from Smethwick originally anyway, not a million miles away. He maintained his actions in meeting with the EDL were all in the best interests of people in Dudley.

But after the last march cost hundreds of thousands in policing and stirred up a lot of anger and resentment it is hard to see how any attempt to work with the far right group could have been in the interests of anyone bar the individual candidate.

The retiring Tory MP Aidan Burley has also not helped his party hold on to Cannock Chase by taking a swipe at his 'rude' constituents either.

There is an issue that all parties must address, but after this week it is especially urgent for the Tories, and that is the reason their candidates are standing at all. No-one could have expected that Afzal Amin would do something like that. But it looks as though he was prepared to do a deal to become an MP.

Aidan Burley, meanwhile, says that when he campaigned in 2010 he had 'not expected to win the seat'.

This was probably just very self-deprecating of him. Even so, it did make me think about others standing this time around.

If a candidate is not expecting to win then why are they going for it in the first place?

If they are just there for the sake of the party saving face and having a name on the ballot paper it lets down the people who lend it their votes.

There will be cases of candidates parachuted into constituencies with little or no knowledge of the area.

Some work hard to get to know those constituencies and become adopted as locals. Others see their voters as little more than a springboard to Westminster.

The goal for them must be to achieve something in Parliament. Getting into Parliament is not and must never be the goal in itself.


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# Partners in crime prevention praised

Chief Inspector Steve Morrey, Pc Alice Hawkins, CCTV manager Amanda Wilkinson, Jaycee Noon, Peacocks, Business Crime Partnership chairman Natal Chapman, Deputy PCC Sue Arnold, Pat Croxton, Rymans, James Allen, Home Bargains, Chief Supt Jeff Moore and Pc Dave Shorter

AN initiative which brings together businesses across Cannock Chase has been recognised for its crime-fighting work.

The Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford Business Crime Reduction Partnership has been formally accredited by umbrella organisation Partnerships Against Business Crime in Staffordshire (PABCIS).

Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner Sue Arnold, who was at the accreditation event in Cannock shopping centre, said: "I wholeheartedly support the work that the partnership is doing in Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford. They've worked hard to receive the PABCIS accreditation."

PABCIS coordinator Julie Davies said: "Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford's Business Crime Reduction Partnership has worked hard during the last two years in order to achieve the standard laid down by PABCIS."

Staffordshire Police Ch Supt Jeff Moore said: "The accreditation of Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford's partnership is recognition of how closely they work together and with the police in preventing crime."

# Have say on police issues

**CHASE residents can have a say on key issues such as online security and how the police are funded.**

Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis is giving residents in Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley the chance to give their view as he bids to make Staffordshire the most open and transparent force in the country.

Leaflets delivered in council tax bills to households across the countyask people to give their views at the www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/have-your-say website. In a '21-second' video message, Mr Ellis says: "I'm really keen to hear your views on some national and some local issues – investment in Neighbourhood Watch, should we spend more or less on policing, online fraud and security and then national security."

The leaflets also give a breakdown of the police and community safety portion of council tax for 2015/16 and explain why the Commissioner has again refused to increase this. Mr Ellis said: "It's too easy to hit local people in the pocket instead of spending what we've already got better. Common sense efficiency in spending public money is what I believe in.

"The reductions in budget from Government are tough but the work to improve value for money is working and freezing council taxis the right thing to do."

View the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oCvalNbIag&list=UUBZ2D72Lv8WGYrhC9Gd_OEg

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# Town will turn yellow to remember Stephen

## Wheels of love keep turning

Diamond wedding couple Bill and Rose Turner from Cannock

The pair on their big day

A COUPLE who met at a cycling club have kept the wheels turning on their relationship for more than six decades.

Rose and Bill Turner, who wed at Sat James Church, West Bromwich, in 1955, marked 60 years of marriage with a weekend with their children and grandchildren at the Longford House Hotel in Cannock.

The couple, aged 79 and 84 respectively, got together when Mr Tuner returned from the army after been called up in 1948. They were members of Hilltop Cycling Club.

Mr Turner has worked in car garages while Mrs Turner has been a tailor. In the 70s and 80s they ran shops together, one in Willenhall and one in Bentley.

They moved to Cannock in 2008 and now live in Marshwood Close.

**THE life of cancer sufferer Stephen Sutton will be remembered on the first anniversary of death next month.**

Stephen, of Burntwood, rho helped to raise £5 million for charity, died on May 14 last year.

For two weeks from the start of the month, his home town will be come a sea of yellow as homes, railings and cars don ribbons to remember the 19-year-old who lost a battle with bowel cancer.

Stephen Sutton

Organiser Sharon Whitchurch, 44, said: "I have organised Turn Burntwood Yellow For Stephen as a way for the community to let his family know that a year on we still love him and have not forgotten all that he did."

Mrs Whitchurch, a skills coach at Bromford Housing added: "So many people have not taken down their ribbons from last year, myself included and that's wonderful, but to mark the first anniversary we want to put up more.

"I think a year on, it would be a fitting tribute if we could turn Burntwood yellow again and show that while he is gone, he is certainly not forgotten."

Stephen, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer aged 15, created a 46 item bucket list, which included plans to raise £10,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

But after celebrities including comedian Jason Manford got on board his appeal went viral and the former Chase Terrace Technology College pupil raised £3million before he died. The sum increased to a final total of £5m.

Mrs Whitchurch said yellow flowers had already been planted in the town and florists were stocking up on yellow ribbon. Residents are also being encouraged to attend a balloon release on the anniversary.

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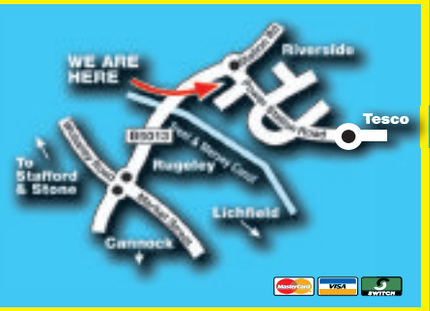


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# Get fired up for grate savings at family-run firm

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

**AS the Easter break is upon us and summertime is fast approaching, why not take advantage of some spectacular savings, by visiting Aldridge Fireplace's buoyant fireplace showroom in the centre of the town.**

Since relocating to Anchor Road, Aldridge over six years ago, the company seems to be going from strength to strength.

"We have both been surprised, and pleased, with how the business has progressed," company co-director Matt Pennell says. "In this current climate, people are choosing not to move but stay and improve their home, and a fireplace will add significant value to their home."

Aldridge Fireplaces is a family-owned business with the emphasis on a relaxed, personal service and offers a unique service on all suites and packages. The stylish showroom features some exclusive marble and Portuguese limestone displays, solid wood and stone surrounds.

Co-director Dan Pennell adds: "It's been really positive, after the company was voted the most-loved fireplace company in the UK via the 'best of' website. We're really pleased with the award and could not have won it without all the positive feedback of our customers."

The firm's experienced sales staff are also able to offer packages to suit all ages and styles of home, and offer quality products at affordable prices, as well as manufacture bespoke fireplaces to the correct size for each customer if required. In addition to this there is currently FREE FITTING on offer when you purchase a fire with a suite.

The family-run business in Anchor Road, opposite the Crown Carvery

We will be carrying out one of our biggest sales yet!

Tomorrow, Good FridayApril 3, Saturday April 4 and Monday April 6 we will be offering some amazing deals. "We feel Easter is an opportunity for families to get out," states Dan. "And with this in mind we wanted to offer our customers something special and decided for this weekend only to offer 50 per cent off any fire when purchased with one of our quality suites. The free fitting has proven to be very popular," adds Matt.

"We now have a qualified gas safe and Hetas accredited team of engineers who are employed by the company and our customers can therefore be confident that all work carried out is completed to the relevant industry standards. "Most fireplace showrooms in the market will offer a card from a third party installer, well that's where we differ as all our works are carried out and guaranteed by the company, therefore giving you added satisfaction and peace of mind." Staff will visit each home if required to ensure the correct specification of fireplace is fitted.

"In the past we have celebrated our anniversary with different offers," adds Matt. "However, this is one of our best yet 50 per cent is a massive saving. Not only are we offering our customers FREE FITTING on all suites when purchased with a gas or electric fire, we will give you a 50 per cent discount off any of our gas or electric fire range (this excludes balanced flue and power flued specialist fires and any manager's specials)."

With all this in mind it has never been a better time to purchase your new fireplace from us and with the added incentive of 50 per cent off your gas or electric fire when purchased with any suite, this is an offer not to be missed.

The offer starts at 10 am on Good Friday, from 10am - 4.30pm; Saturday April 4, 10am - 4:30pm; Sunday closed, reopening on Monday, from 11am to 4pm.

Aldridge Fireplaces is located at 51A Anchor Road, opposite The Crown Carvery (The Elms). The firm offers a unique shopping experience – friendly, helpful staff and extremely competitive pricing.

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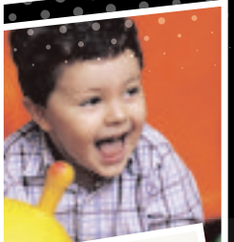

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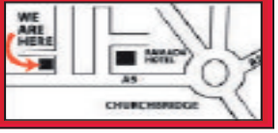


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The service was recognised for the ST15 misting branch

# Delight as service is a winner at double

**STAFFORDSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service is celebrating after scooping two top national awards – gold for Innovation and the bronze for Fire and Rescue Service Project of Year.**

It was the first time the service had entered the Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise Awards, which saw public sector organisations across the country apply.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service was recognised for the ST15 misting branch which forms the nozzle of a firefighting hose. The nozzle is being sold by international company FireBug, which teamed up with the service in 2013 to develop and produce the tool.

It encapsulates science to use minimum water while achieving maximum results. It is said to be the most water-efficient nozzle on the market today and is approximately 65 per cent more efficient than other comparative nozzles.

The nozzle is designed to use the minimum water

## Impressive

The ST15 is also helping to boost the Staffordshire economy as it is manufactured in Newcastle under Lyme.

Rob Barber, director of response, played a key role in developing the ST15.

He said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won the gold award for innovation at such a prestigious national ceremony.

"The other organisations that had been shortlisted had put some very impressive projects forward so to come first is a real coup for the service.

"We also came third in the Fire and Rescue Service of the Year Award which is also an amazing achievement that we are extremely proud of. In Staffordshire we are always looking at innovative ways to improve safety while providing a service that offers the best possible value for money for our communities. The ST15 is just one of the ways that we are achieving these aims.

"We will continue to work with our crews and partners in both the public and private sectors to develop tools that put firefighter safety and the safety of residents at the top of our agenda."

Rebecca Bryant, executive director/deputy chief executive, and Councillor Terry Finn, chair of the service improvement committee, represented the service at the awards in London.

# Children given fire risk lesson

A HIGH-PROFILE campaign by the fire service has been launched in classrooms across south Staffordshire in a bid to build on a dramatic drop in deliberately lit small fires.

The number of grass and bin blazes in the county fell from 1,281 between April and September in 2013 to 866 during the same period last year – a reduction of 32 per cent.

The decrease is being credited to the success of the Flames Aren't Games campaign in other parts of Staffordshire. Since 2011, when the initiative was set up, the figure has fallen by 55 per cent from a high of 1,906.

Now community safety officers have been speaking to hundreds of pupils in a schools tour of the area about the risks involved in setting grass fires.

Carmel Warren, regional prevention manager, said: "The proactive work that we are doing with young people across the area is having a really positive impact.

"We have seen, very clearly, that as engagement with pupils increases, grass fires decrease. We strongly believe that by educating children from a young age, they will be aware of the potential risks and consequences of deliberately setting fires."

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# Disco diva's story to be told at the Garrick

**Brownhills Musical Theatre Company return to the Garrick after previous hits Beauty & The Beast and The Producers**

SISTER Act is coming to Spread the love at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre next month. Based on the Touchstone Pictures motion picture, Sister Act tells the story of aspiring disco diva Deloris Van Cartier.

Trying to work her way to the top in 1970s Philadelphia, Deloris falls in love with a very tough – and very married – gangster boyfriend named Curtis, and when Deloris witnesses him commit a murder she ends up in hiding on police orders in a convent whose parish has fallen on hard times. Although the sequin-free lifestyle doesn't agree with her, Deloris finds her calling working with the choir, and breathes new life into the dusty convent while discovering a sisterhood she's never had before.

Brownhills Musical Theatre Company return to the Lichfield Garrick after previous award-winning hits Beauty & The Beast and The Producers.

The cast are led by Alanna Boden who has taken on the principal role of Deloris Van Cartier made famous by Whoopi Goldberg in the 1992 film.

Featuring a cast of 40-plus Sisters and Brothers the production is at the Garrick from May 5 to 9.

Call 01785 715368 or visit www.lichfieldgarrick.com

# Stop fines for taking term breaks say parents

**PARENTS in Staffordshire have spoken out against fines for taking their children out of school for family holidays in term time.**

According to a national survey of 7,000 households – 206 in Staffordshire – 68 per cent of parents complained that headteachers should not have the right to penalise parents.

Fifty seven per cent said that it was now time to stagger school holidays.

Meanwhile, 70 per cent accused the Government of again acting like a nanny state over the issue while calling for an immediate change in the law to allow parents to take their children on holiday at any time.

**By David Banner**

## Response

The survey, commissioned by Questor Insurance Services, was not totally one sided though. Of those that supported the school policy 52 per cent said taking children away in term time disrupted their education and made it difficult for the school.

"The survey was originally intended to establish the views of households about travel insurance," said Andrew Lawrence, managing director of Questor, "and we were not expecting such a response to the second part of our questionnaire which covered holiday habits. It really does seem that parents feel strongly about this issue."

These views were reinforced with 77 per cent of parents saying it was not selfish to take children on holiday in term time with 30 per cent of those saying it gives hard-pressed families the chance of a less expensive holiday; 38 per cent saying such occasions were good for a child's education and the rest claiming it was better for a family to have quality time together than no holiday at all.


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## What our Members think...

**Member of the Month - Alison Phillips** Lost 1st 10 lbs and 21 ½ inches since joining in February *"Love this place I love the atmosphere from the staff there so friendly and enthusiastic would recommend to all women x*

**Sammy Ritchie** *They help with exercise as well as diets and are always there to offer encouragement. I'm still struggling with my chocolate temptation but with help and guidance I've still managed to drop a dress size in 6 weeks. The best move I've made is joining Gymophobics I feel fab already. Thanks xxx*

**Stacey Astbury** *Gymophobics is the best gym ive ever joined. Its a great place too go. Staff are so friendly and helpful and make us feel very welcome, you are not just a number at Gymophobics. Since ive joined ive lost 10lbs and couldnt of done it without their help & support big thankyou too them.*

**Tina Barrett** *Staff are so friendly and welcoming and don't judge you. They offer so much encouragement too. Members are also very friendly and I have never felt intimidated there. Best decision I made to join there xx*

**Joanne Corns** *Best decision ive made!!! There's a warm and friendly environment without any intimidation x*

**Jade Haden** *I've never been to a gym before, I plucked up the courage to go and I'm so glad I did. It's great, the team make u feel so welcome and the ladies who go are so friendly. I've lost 10lb in 4 weeks and it's thanks to Gymophobics Cannock!!. Love it. Xx*

**Amanda Turner** *Starting gymophobics for me was the best thing I'd done , exercising in a friendly environment with fantastic staff. Who would have thought that working out could be so much fun .xx*

**Andrea Harvey** *There will be temptation, but i promise you, when you reach your goal its WORTH IT!! I wouldn't be where i am now without the support of the gymophobics team best decision i ever made xx*

**Emma Murphy** *The staff are lovely, really get me motivated and always have a good laugh whilst working out. Never felt intimidated at all, you will feel that as soon as you walk through the door. I wouldn't go anywhere else x*

**Sarah Astbury** *I love gymaphobics because they have helped me drop lbs and inches in weeks. It's like my second home. All the staff there welcome you an are so friendly and that's hard to find at most gyms!*

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# Green Party voices fears over retail development

**THE Green Party in Cannock is opposing plans for a designer outlet village. It argues the development will damage wildlife and town centre shops.**

Plans for 130 high end retails shops and restaurants are included in the £115 million Mill Green development.

Ahead of the deadline for comments on the proposed development, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Paul Woodhead said: "Cannock Chase Green Party opposes the principle of the development as it is an important, much-valued green space adjacent to the local nature reserve.

"Indeed the Cannock Chase District Council's own website details the array of birds and small mammals whose habitats will be affected by this development.

"Furthermore, Cannock Chase Green Party would also point out that the Midlands has the highest rate of vacant commercial premises in the country.

## Closure

"A development like this can only add to the closure of yet more high street shops. One only has to look at places like Dudley to understand how a major shopping centre can adversely affect nearby towns."

The party said should the development be given the go ahead the party would be championing sustainable development measures for the site.

Mr Woodhead said: "If the development is approved, Cannock Chase Green Party would like to limit the extent of damage caused and ensure the development meets the needs of Cannock Chase residents."

He added he would welcome a commitment that all jobs created through the construction or operation of the site be paid at least a living wage with no zero-hour or temporary contracts.

"It is vital to bring an end to austerity and rebalance the economy to work for the people," he said.

## UKIP in toll road protest

**UKIP members Doug Hope, Andrew Illsley, Mike Green, Lyndon Jones and Edward Whitfield protest against toll charges in Cheslyn Hay**

UKIP campaigners took to the M6 Toll to protest against highway charges.

Shropshire and Staffordshire party members congregated at the Mill Lane Bridge over the M6 Toll at Cheslyn Hay. These included four Prospective Parliamentary Candidates, including Andrew Illsley, who is up for the Stone seat.

The party's transport spokesman, Jill Seymour MEP, said drivers were already paying more than enough in taxes to deserve free access to the country's road network.

Mrs Seymour, who is standing for The Wrekin seat in May, said: "Charging to use our busiest motorways or trunk roads is adding insult to injury to the already over-burdened British driver.

"The taxes we already pay as road users should be more than enough to afford the best road network in the world. Putting road tolls on top of the fuel tax, excise duty and VAT which we already pay is wrong."

Tom Fanning, chief executive of operators Midland Expressway Ltd, said: "Our customers choose to pay to use the road. They do so because they get a great reliable service."

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## Twitter award for apology

MP Michael Fabricant has been awarded the 'apology of the year' at the 2015 Political Twitter Awards. The Conservative MP for Lichfield has more than 18,000 followers on the social networking site.

His tweet came following his public spat with columnist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown after he said he would end up punching her in the throat if he appeared on TV with her.

His award-winning Tweet was: "So just for the avoidance of any doubt: I am v sorry for tweet. It was wrong to joke abt punching + I completely withdraw and apologise."

# A tactical game from Labour's candidate

**"I know I'm not going to win," says the Labour candidate pounding the streets on the campaign trail. But this is not defeatism from Kevin McElduff.**

The 50-year-old is going up against Conservative MP Gavin Williamson in a most rock-solidly Tory seat.

If Mr McElduff does win here, then David Cameron will not just be unable to get a majority, the Tories would be worse off even than they were when Tony Blair won his landslide victory in 1997.

MP Gavin Williamson

Mr McElduff believes his job is to play the tactical game for Labour.

Mr Williamson won 26,834 votes in 2010. Mr McElduff, who fought him last time as well, came second with 10,244.

"Our objective is to increase the Labour vote and in so doing get more Labour members on South Staffordshire Council," he says.

Labour's Kevin McElduff

### Opposition

There are currently just two Labour councillors on the district council who cannot possibly provide a complete opposition to the ruling Conservatives.

Mr McElduff said: "If we keep the Tories busy in South Staffordshire then they stay out of the key marginal seats that surround us, the likes of Cannock Chase and Wolverhampton South West."

It's certainly true that these seats are the major battlegrounds that South Staffordshire will never be.

The Tory majority in Wolverhampton South West is a wafer thin 691. In Cannock Chase it is in the thousands but there was a very big swing from Labour to the Conservatives in 2010.

Father-of-two Mr McElduff lives in Oakenclough near Codsall. He is a member of The Firs, a 'private members club that welcomes non members'.

It is only a few years since it was known as the Conservative Club and the building still houses the South Staffordshire Conservative Association.

"When it changed from a Conservative Club I applied," he said. "I'm a member of the Campaign for Real Ale and as it's Camra listed they welcomed me with open arms."

# Service under fire over plan to axe engines

A PLAN to axe 27 of Staffordshire's 42 fire engines to help plug a £5.7 million hole in the budget has been attacked as 'a disgrace'.

The move, which also includes slashing the number of fire stations from 33 to 15 but keeping them as community hubs, is being put forward as a solution to the government austerity cuts.

But Janos Toth, deputy leader of Cannock Chase Council, told Staffordshire Fire and Rescue bosses at a public consultation meeting in Cannock: "These are some of the most Draconian cuts I have ever seen. It's a disgrace we're even discussing it." Fire service bosses came under fire for not publicising the event well enough after just 25 people turned up to the event at the Prince of Wales Centre.

Shaun Miles, headteacher of St Luke's Primary School, Cannock, questioned the fire service's ability to retain its eight-minute response time for high-risk fires in light of the cuts.

He said: "I represent 500 children and up to 1,00 parents and this affects us. One minute could mean the difference between life and death."

Head of response Rob Barber said he would not have proposed anything that compromised public safety.


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# Leisure centre honoured as one of best in country

**RUGELEY Leisure Centre has been recognised as one of the best in the UK.**

The Burnthill Lane facility has become the first trust-run facility to pass a top national standards assessment.

The Quest Stretch programme, run by Sport England, is the best-known improvement scheme within the leisure industry. To date, only five leisure centres in the country have earned the award.

By Marion Brennan

To qualify, centres must already have been rated 'excellent' in their previous Quest assessment.

"To achieve the top award, Rugeley Leisure Centre went through a two-day assessment plus a mystery visit. The centre is now rated 'outstanding'.

## Delighted

Pete Burt, managing director at WLCT which runs the centre on behalf of Cannock Chase Council, said: "Rugeley Leisure Centre is a facility at the heart of its community that understands the needs of that community, and I am absolutely delighted that it has been recognised as one of the best in the country. This is testament to everyone there who works so hard.

"One of the key things that makes the centre such a success is the work that staff do with partner organisations like the NHS to provide health programmes. We are committed to continuing this work for the benefit of everyone in the local community."

Councillor Christine Mitchell, leader for culture and sport, said: "I am delighted.

"Helping people enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle is a priority for the council."

Staff at Rugeley Leisure Centre celebrate the Quest Stretch accreditation

## Children's sale is the highlight of charity day

YEAR 5 pupils from Chase View Primary School organised a bring and buy sale to raise money for Comic Relief.

Preparations began with the children designing posters and making appeals for donations. Many of the class also did some baking at home to make cakes and biscuits to sell.

With donations of toys, books, comics, DVDs and more besides, the class allocated themselves jobs, sorted and priced the goods and set up the hall in preparation for the event.

There was also a variety of games for the children, and two staff members from Dominoes Pizza came along to sell pizzas, cookies and cakes.

Once all was ready the other classes converged on the hall, money in hands and snapped up all the bargains both to take home and eat there and then, with the few remaining items sold to parents later.

This was part of a series of events at the school for Comic Relief which also included a whole school talent show with singing, dancing, gymnastics, magic and sports skills on show, class and staff Comic relief sweepstakes and a Decorate Your Face event.

The Year 5 bring and buy sale raised in excess of £200 on its own and when combined with the other events Chase View has raised over £600 for this year's appeal.

## Music in the air for charity

THE Stafford Grammar School Concert Band will join with The Rugeley Academies Vocal Ensemble for a fund-raising concert. Music In The Air is being held in aid of the Alzheimer's Society on Friday, May 1 at Lea Hall Social Club, Sandy Lane. It starts at 7pm and admission is £4.

## Have say on dental provision

PEOPLE living and working in Rugeley are being asked to share their views about local dental services.

Thoughts and comments are being sought ahead of an exercise to buy dental services in the town.

NHS England is specifically looking at the dental services provided at 17 Horsefair, Rugeley. Due to a change in circumstances at the existing practice, it needs to complete a procurement exercise to decide who will provide dental services from that or an alternative location.

The survey is available at www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/rugeley-dental and should be completed by April 8. Printed surveys are available at the Rose Theatre, Rugeley Library and Sheepfair Community Centre and can be posted back.

## Quiz follows Easter event

AN Easter egg-stravaganza is taking place at a Rugeley church this month.

Led by Rev George Holding and Sue Whitehouse, it takes place from 2-4pm on Wednesday, April 5 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, in Hislop Road.

It will feature an Easter egg hunt, egg and spoon race, crafts and worship.

Meanwhile, quiz buffs can put on their thinking caps at the church on April 29 from 7.30m.

Entry is £2 per person.

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Greetings from Igglepiggle

COMPETITION

# Igglepiggle is just the ticket for youngsters

THE summer classic for children, In The Night Garden Live, will be delighting youngsters and their parents at Birmingham's Canon Hill Park from July 11-25, as part of a UK tour.

Nine out of 10 parents give the staged event of the BAFTA award-winning CBeebies children's TV show five out of five stars, according to audience surveys and parents' reviews on NightGardenLive.com.

And you could be at this amazing musical theatre experience for all the family. The organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offers readers the chance to win three Meet the Cast and Characters family tickets and three runner-up show-only family tickets (Family ticket is for four people, minimum one adult).

Children's favourite CBeebies' stars, Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends, are all brought beautifully to life on stage using full-size costumes, magical puppets, enchanting music and breathtaking projections.

The show takes place in its own all-weather, purpose-built inflatable showdome with many family-friendly facilities. This site-specific structure is a huge hit with children and parents and its immersive theatrical experience makes audiences feel they are actually entering the magical world of the TV show In the Night Garden.

Andrew Collier, Creative Director of Minor Entertainment said: "Parents tell us that children as young as a few months old engage with the live show, and the looks on the faces of the children and parents in the audiences are absolutely amazing."

In the Night Garden... Live

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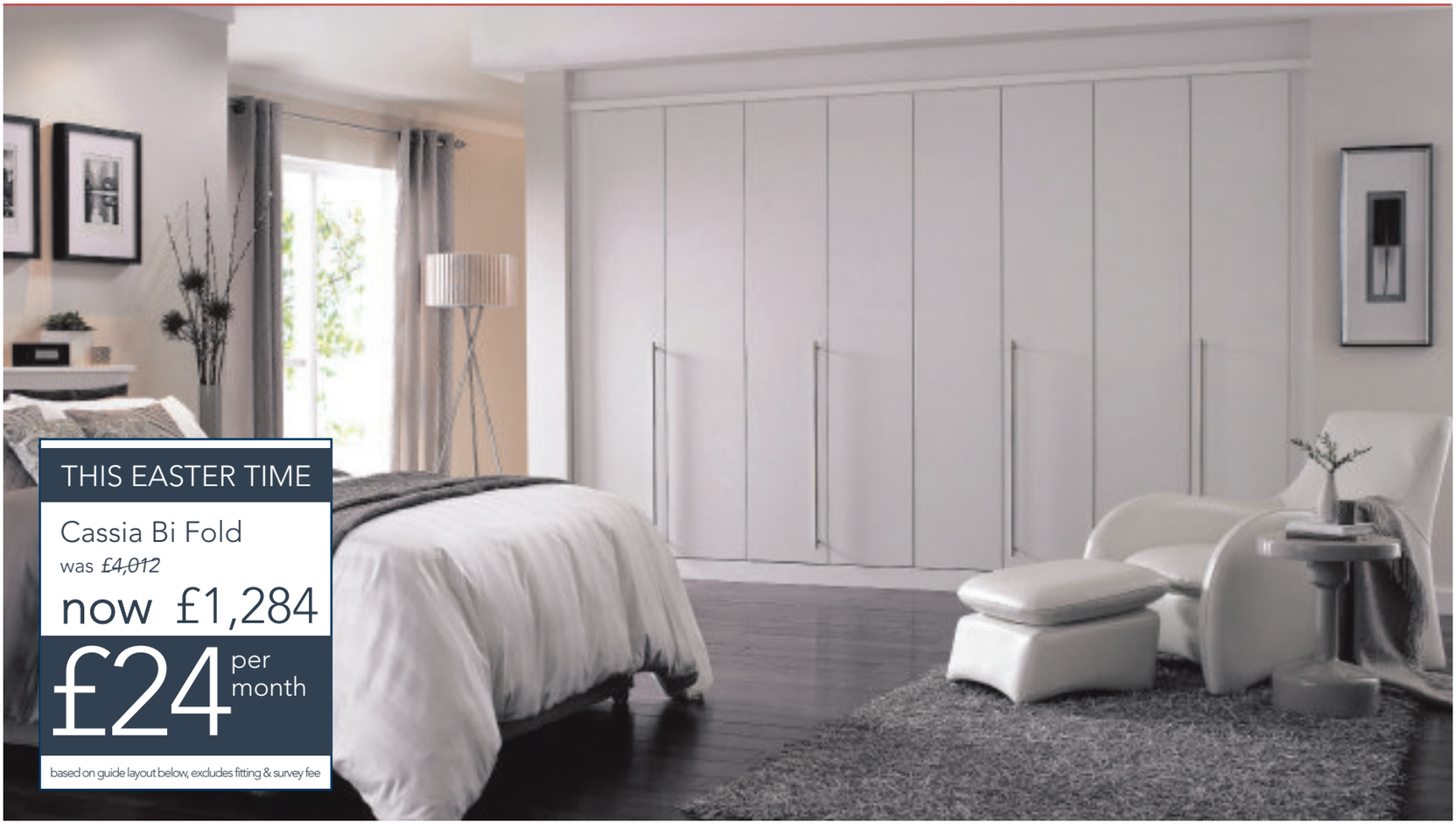

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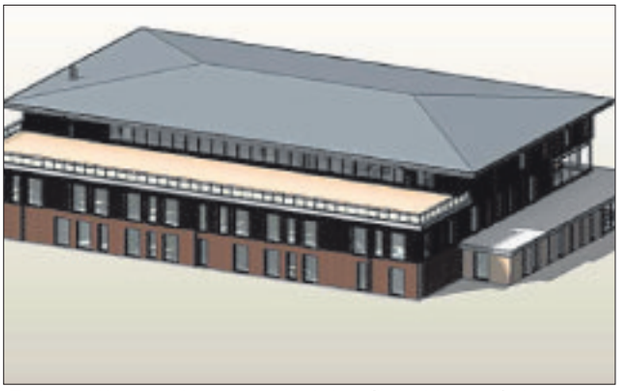

The base will be one of three investigative hubs in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

# Glimpse of new centre for police

THIS is the design for a new police centre of excellence planned for Lichfield which will house forensic laboratories and investigators.

Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis says the new base will bring investigative resources together from across the south of the county including CID officers, public protection and forensic investigators.

The new base will be one of three investigative hubs across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and will replace the old police station in Lichfield.

The former building is no longer fit for purpose and is due to be sold off as part of city centre redevelopment proposals.

A planning application for the Eastern Avenue site will be submitted following consultation with local residents and building work is expected to start this year with the centre expected to open in 2016.

The base will be built on the corner of Eastern Avenue and the A51Stafford Road and will house the latest laboratory facilities for DNA and fingerprint examination. It will also see investigators and scientific experts working more closely to each other than ever before.

The facility will also provide a base for the Local Policing Team who cover the Lichfield area.

Mr Ellis said: "This is about using public resources well by investing in a first-rate police facility for the future and giving police the best tools to do their job. This new centre of excellence will directly benefit crime victims throughout the south of the county by bringing police expertise in investigations and forensics under one roof."

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# Fitness help with Macmillan team

THE body that provides leisure services across Cannock Chase has teamed up with a cancer charity to help those affected by the disease get fit and active.

WLCT, which operates Chase and Rugeley Leisure Centres on behalf of the district council, is supporting the initiative with Macmillan Cancer Support.

Lynn Franklin and Kay Brown are WLCT's new Macmillan specialist activity instructors based at the two leisure venues.

They provide a range of individually tailored support, from one-to-one supervised sessions, to a wide range of group activities and classes where there is an opportunity to meet others who have had similar experiences.

Lynn said: "We deliver a programme which takes into account each person's needs, interests and abilities and we support them with overcoming any problems."

Kay added: "We support people affected by cancer in achieving a better quality of life."

For a free consultation with a specialist activity instructor call 01889 586260 or ask your doctor, cancer nurse specialist or GP for a referral.

# Talks under way with bidders to deliver cancer care

**BOSSES behind controversial plans to sell cancer care and end-of-life services in Staffordshire have defended the process after revealing talks with bidders have begun.**

Cancer and end-of-life care in the county are set be managed by private companies in deals worth a total of £1.2 billion.

At a Staffordshire County Council meeting last week, Andy Donald, chief officer for Stafford & Surrounds and Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Groups, reassured councillors that the process 'is not the first stage of privatising the NHS'.

Report by Katy-Rose Meaney

Mr Donald was called to give an update report to the health select committee over the huge contracts and revealed to members that talks with bidders for cancer care were now under way and discussions with interested parties for end-of-life services would begin by the end of April.

He said: "In November we announced the bidders who came through a pre-qualification questionnaire. This week we are starting competitive dialogue for cancer care and in April we will start competitive dialogue with end-of-life bidders.

## Reflecting

"The programme is moving along, slightly slower than expected but we have spent time reflecting. Reflection is important, to ensure we have it absolutely right."

Talks with potential organisations, including The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Care Ltd, are expected to take a few months.

The tender process for the 10-year contracts worth £689 million and £535m should begin in the summer.

Mr Donald denied claims by critics who said the move would privatise the health service.

He said: "This isn't about privatising cancer care. Our job is to get the best care for everybody and not to leave it as as a lottery."

The contracts are due to start in April 2016 but Councillor Brian Gamble questioned how the changes would help those suffering from cancer.

He said: "I am not in favour of the process and I have made that clear all along. How will fresh layers of bureaucracy actually help the person suffering at the end of their life?"

Mr Donald said: "Over the next few years we will see how providers of cancer care will work better together."

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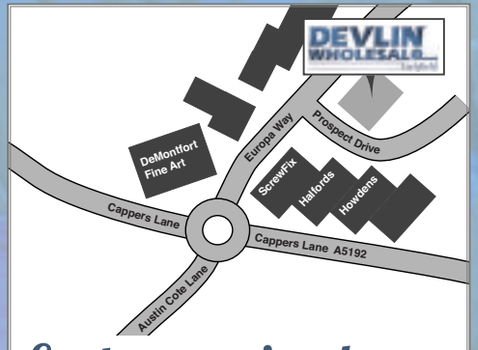


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- Friday 17th April 5pm - Junior Youth Group - ***Skittles.***
- Sunday 19th April 6pm - Bible talk ***Prophecy proves Bible truth.***
- Monday 20th April 10:30am - Mums and Tots
- Friday 24th April 7pm - Youth Group ***Swimming.***
- Sunday 26th April 6pm - Bible talk ***Jerusalem - future capital of the world.***
- Friday 1st May 5pm - Junior Youth Group - ***Junk challenge.***
- Sunday 3rd May 2:30pm - Bible talk ***What the Bible really says about God and His son.***

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*We also hold a Bible study class most Wednesday evenings at 7:45pm. Please see our website for further details.*

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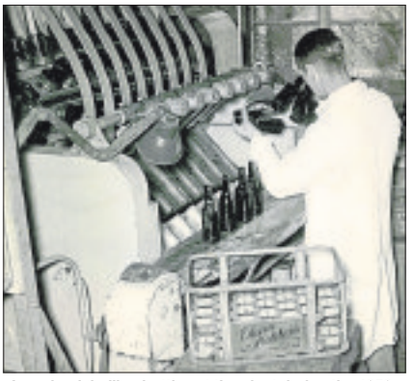
Bottles of beer being prepared ready for distribution



A worker labelling bottles at the plant during the 1950s

# Cheers – raise a glass to brewery centenary

## MEMORY LANE

by Adam Burling

**THE brewing industry has changed dramatically over the last 100 years – but one of the Black Country's best known firms remains as popular as ever.**

Holden's is celebrating its centenary year, and from humble beginnings the family-run business is now expanding as drinkers return to real ale.

Although the equipment at its site has become more modern, bosses are keeping traditions alive despite seeing production soar.

The essence of the brewing process remains the same as it has for decades, though the scale has increased. One of just 33 family-owned independent breweries in Britain with 20 pubs across the Black Country, Holden's expansion will see its base at the Park Inn, Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, extended and its ale production increased from 50,000 pints a week to 75,000.

A new tank room will be completed, increasing capacity by 50 per cent. New micro breweries such as the Backyard Brewhouse in Brownhills are building up a reputation but the Holden family say few can match their history and pedigree.

The extension has been built at the rear of the site, in George Street, and will see extra fermentation tanks installed.

Director Abi Kemp, whose great-grandmother Lucy was a driving force behind establishing the brewery in 1915, said: "It's a really exciting year for us and it's lovely that we still have family members running the business.

"We are moving forward but we are a family business with a lot of history.

"We want to celebrate the last 100 years and give people the chance to learn about how the company has developed." As part of the latest revamp, the old warehouses at The Park Inn were taken down and rebuilt, a new two storey office block was constructed on the site of the old off licence, and 18 new tanks installed.

A test kitchen, bottle store and office suite are also part of the three-storey development.

Managing director Jonothan Holden said: "There has been a resurgence in the popularity of ales in recent time and this has been a massive benefit to us.

"This expansion is necessary for us to build on the business."

The brewery has a popular line of its own bottled beer now, but bosses say they want to keep focusing on draught in pubs to keep the industry going.

The Park Inn is steeped in history, with photographs of the Holden family, their workers and changes to the brewery displayed through the pub.

The brewery is hosting an open day on July 18 and 19 with guided tours and a mini beer festival.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# Grandfather died after accident at crossing

## Pub vow on underage sales

Pubs operator Punch Taverns said staff would be trained to ensure no further issues arise at The Malt Shovel, in Chorley

A PUB operator has vowed to train staff at one of its premises which was found to be selling alcohol to underage children.

Staffordshire Police issued the temporary closure notice on The Malt Shovel in Chorley near Lichfield which came into force at 7am on Friday and prevented alcohol being served for 48 hours.

Punch Taverns, which operates the venue, said it would use the time to ensure employees did not repeat the mistakes. A spokeswoman said: "We are working with Staffordshire Police and our tenants to ensure that during this period of closure staff training is provided to ensure no further issues arise."

The pub was still able to serve food and soft drinks at the weekend.

Police carried out two repeat test operations in three months which found staff were selling alcohol to underage children.

A force spokeswoman said: "Orders can last between two and 14 days. The decision is made by a Superintendent and should be proportionate to the breach."

**A CHASETOWN grandfather died after being hit by a lorry while Christmas shopping and buying birthday cards for his wife.**

Peter Pelari suffered serious injuries in the collision in High Street, Brownhills, near the junction with Church Road, on December 19 last year.

Peter Pelari

The 84-year-old, who lived in Barncroft,was airlifted to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital after the accident at 11.30am but died soon after. The former mobile crane driver suffered multiple fractures and died after suffering a cardiac arrest, the inquest in Smethwick heard.

His daughter Jacqueline Askey said: "He liked to go out every day, do a bit of shopping, visit my mother in the home. He had gone out to buy my mother's birthday and Christmas cards." The cards for his wife Doreen, who is in a care home, were found nearby. Mrs Askey said the grandfather of three had parked in another location to normal due to it being busy. Pc Katrina Hall said Mr Pelari had tried to to cross at a pedestrian crossing as the lights were changing to green for the traffic to move.

Mr Pelari's leg became trapped under the vehicle as the lorry moved forward. The majority of witnesses said the driver was not at fault and the inquest was told that a police investigation found there was insufficient evidence to bring him to court.

Kim Shone, of Wolverhampton, who had been driving the Volvo 12.5-ton lorry, said he checked around him and in his mirrors before slowly travelling forward. He said he had travelled about 10in before he noticed a womanwaving her arms. Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique concluded Mr Pelari died as a result of a road traffic accident.

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Stephen was up all night with stomach cramps and sickness. The next day, he was still vomiting every few hours and had a constant headache and temperature, but drank when he could.

Over the next 24 hours he started to feel better. Stephen had been due to visit his gran in hospital, but suspecting he had a vomiting bug, norovirus, he stayed at home to recover for two days to avoid passing it on.

**Stephen chose well**

Minor injuries and illnesses like flu, colds, and muscle sprains are best treated at home. Visit your local pharmacy for advice and treatment, or call NHS 111 if you're unsure whether you need medical help.

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# Ex-traffic officer died in fall from motorbike

**A RETIRED Burntwood police traffic officer suffered fatal injuries after losing control and falling off his motorbike, an inquest heard.**

Alan Morgan joined West Midlands Police in 1979 and had retired from the force but was still working as a civilian employee just before his death, the inquest at Smethwick Council House was told.

The father-of-two died after falling off his Honda motorbike on his way home from work at Perry Barr police station on December 15.

The accident happened in Queslett Road East, Pheasey, and Mr Morgan suffered head and neck injuries. The 58-year-old, who lived in Oak Lane, Burntwood, was pronounced dead at the scene.

His widow Carol Morgan told the hearing that he had a passion for motorbikes and was an experienced rider. She said that the night before the accident they had put their Christmas tree up.

Mrs Morgan said she had been expecting her husband home by 8.30pm and knew there was something wrong when two police officers knocked on her door at 9.30pm.

She told the inquest: "I just don't know what happened. He was a good rider. He trained me to ride." The hearing was told that Mr Morgan had diabetes, but colleagues had seen him preparing a meal shortly before he died.

Pc Phil Robins, from the collision investigation unit at Perry Barr, said Mr Morgan had fallen from his motorbike near the junction with Doe Bank Lane. He said conditions had been cold and dry and the road surface was not frozen.

The inquest heard that a witness saw his back wheel slide out. Pc Robins said he could not say exactly why Mr Morgan had crashed.

Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique said there was no suggestion Mr Morgan had been speeding and no evidence he suffered a heart attack or blackout.

He concluded that Mr Morgan died as a result of a road traffic collision. Mr Morgan also leaves behind a daughter Stephanie, 26, and son Anthony, 24.

By Lisa O'Brien

# Charity offers free adventure sessions

Children attending the camps participate in activities such as archery, clay pigeon shooting, creative writing and climbing

OVER The Wall, a children's charity dedicated to providing therapeutic camps for children with serious illnesses, is to run a series of free Staffordshire-based sessions in May and August. They will be held at the Whitemoor Lakes activity centre near Lichfield.

Those attending the camps will participate in activities such as archery, clay pigeon shooting, fishing, drumming circles, creative writing, climbing and kayaking.

Last year, Over The Wall supported more than 500 children and families and is hoping to reach out to at least 600 this year, increasing the life changing experiences it provides to children with a vast range of medical conditions.

The recreational activity camps are medically sound environments, with highly skilled medical professionals, available 24 hours a day.

Over The Wall also offers separate camps for the siblings of children with illnesses and long weekends that the whole family can attend, completely free of charge.

If you know of a child or family that would benefit from Over The Wall's camps, or if you are a person that would be interested in volunteering at the Staffordshire-based camps, contact Over The Wall on 02392 477110 or go to www.otw.org.uk and apply to participate online.


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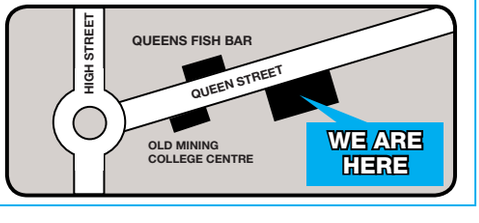

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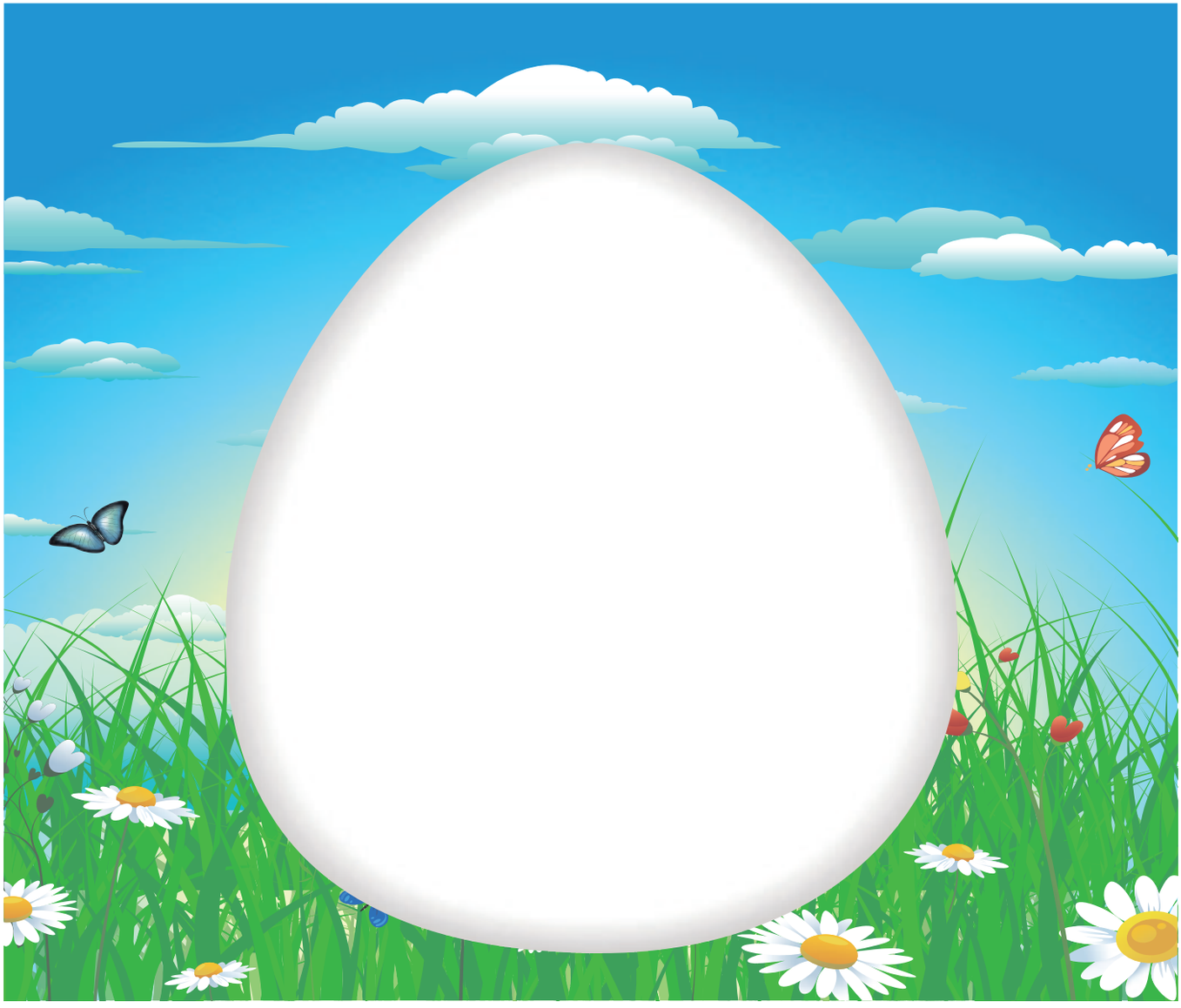

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# Never mind quantity, quality was great

**Catfish and the Bottlemen, The Institute, Birmingham.**

THE set was short and sweet at 50 minutes from these rising stars from North Wales (or maybe that should be short and sweat, the way the venue was filled to capacity) but one can forgive the brevity with just one album under their belt.

However, that debut The Balcony has been consistently winning over converts to the Llandudno quartet since its release last autumn. Every track, from this gig's opener Rango to the final double salvo of Cocoon and an epic, blistering version of Tyrants, was treated like a greatest hit by an enthusiastic crowd.

Singer Van McCann seemed genuinely delighted to hear his lyrics sung back at him and pointed out that they have played every room at the Digbeth venue, finally making the main hall.

Their soaring melodic songs about teenagers fuelled by hormones and booze seem to have wide appeal judging by the age range at the Brum gig. Sadly, they may never play such a small venue again as they look destined for the arenas, provided they can adequately follow up The Balcony. Judging by this early contender for West Midlands gig of the year, the frantic four with the odd name are up to the task.

**Leon Burakowski**

# Distinctive voice has still got it

**Joan Armatrading**
**Town Hall, Birmingham**

AFTER more than 40 years of gigging around the world one of the Second City's most famous daughters was back on her home patch.

The concert was a potted history of her career with a video screen, used throughout her singing but mainly there to give her a break and tell the audience about her achievements and all the famous people she has encountered.

Armatrading's distinctive, deep and mournful voice has lost none of its allure, power or emotion. You have to give it to her, the veteran singer did a 90-minute set straight through.

Apart from having a great voice and producing some of the most memorable songs of more than one generation Armatrading is a fantastic guitarist.

She gave the audience what they wanted, running through her catalogue of hits right from the first album. Armatrading is so relaxed on stage and had the audience in the palm of her hands.

**Danny Farragher**

## REVIEWS

A scene from A View From the Bridge on a welcome return to the Grand Theatre

# Gripping drama was played with complete conviction

**A View From The Bridge, Grand Theatre**

TOURING Consortium Theatre, made a welcome return to the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, with a stunning production of Arthur Miller's gripping drama.

Those who have yet to experience Miller's hard-hitting storylines should not be fooled into thinking that the title of the play refers to the scene of affluence associated with Manhattan as seen from the Brooklyn Bridge.

This is a tragic snapshot of the hardship endured by many New Yorkers who resided in the Red Hook area of the city during the 1950s, when employment for the lucky few meant working on the docks under back-breaking conditions.

Eddie Carbone, is a longshoreman who struggles to keep his wife Beatrice and orphaned niece, Catherine, while also taking on the responsibility of two cousins from his spouse's Italian family who are, we learn, illegal immigrants.

Jonathan Guy Lewis took on the pivotal role of Eddie Carbone with complete conviction, offering a dark, menacing portrayal with depth of character. Teresa Banham as Beatrice perfectly conveyed the increasing concern and terror.

**Alison Norton**

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LIVING AND SHOPPING IN

# MID STAFFORDSHIRE

*Superb landscape – fallow deer can be spotted on Cannock Chase, an area of natural beauty*

*See the Gruffalo at Birches Valley*

*Cannock Chase AONB was designated in 1958 because of its beautiful varied landscape, history and wildlife. Today, it remains a popular attraction.*

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**IN England, Wales and Northern Ireland, those landscapes considered most valuable are protected as National Parks or areas of natural beauty (AONB). Cannock Chase AONB was designated in 1958 because of its beautiful landscape, history and wildlife.**

Important both locally and nationally, the Chase depends upon sensitive use and management to help conserve and enhance its special qualities, such as its peaceful and wilderness feel, its variety of habitats and its unusual plant and animal species.

For further details please contact Cannock Chase AONB Unit on 01785 619185 or at www.cannock-chase.co.uk

Birches Valley Forest Centre is an excellent starting point for an exhilarating day out on Cannock Chase. From the Midlands best bike trails and woodland walks to adventure play and Go Ape, there is a great day out just waiting for you.

Enjoy a wide variety of walks ranging from a one mile 'Route to Health Sculpture Trail' with lots to see and do including 'Fairy Trees' and 'Gruffalo Sculpture', to the picturesque 'Sherbrook Valley' with its mixture of woodlands and open heathland.

Birches Valley is also the home to Birches Valley Café, Swinnerton Cycles Bike Shop and Go Ape.

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For more information, please contact Forestry Commission, Birches Valley Forest Centre, Birches Valley, Rugeley, WS15 2UQ.

Tel: 01889 586 593 Email: info-cannock@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/cannockforest

### History

Step back in time and immerse yourself in the history of the area with The Museum of Cannock Chase.

The museum's focus is on local history, with a particular emphasis on coal mining, social history plus toys and games from the past, as well as an exciting temporary exhibition and family events programme. Full listings are available on the website.

There is free admission, gift shop, coffee shop and Cannock Chase Tourist Information Point.

Opening times are from Easter to end of September – daily, 11am to 5pm.

For more information, please contact The Museum of Cannock Chase, Valley Road, Hednesford, WS12 1TD. Telephone 01543 877 666 or email museumofcannockchase@wlct.org

Alternatively visit www.wlct.org/museumofcannockchase

Cannock, on the southern edge of the Chase, offers a wide variety of choice to the discerning shopper combining high quality shopping malls and a traditional market. In the heart of Cannock's conservation area, a mix of bars and cafes complement the other town centre attractions.

Hednesford offers a variety of specialist and traditional shops and cafes and is the ideal starting point for visitors to the area as it is the gateway to the Chase. Hednesford is also home to the Museum of Cannock Chase which illustrates the rich industrial heritage of the area and offers an information point for visitors.

Rugeley, nestling on the northern side of the Chase, has been a busy market town since the 13th century. Today a bustling market operates three days a week from the market square. Throughout the town centre, major retail chains mix with the small friendly locally owned shops. The Trent and Mersey canal flows through the town, adding to the peaceful setting.

Photographs of Cannock Chase supplied courtesy of Jon Emson, tel: 07432 772288 and Steve Welch, tel: 01543 490851.

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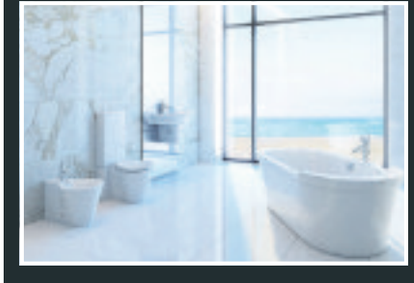

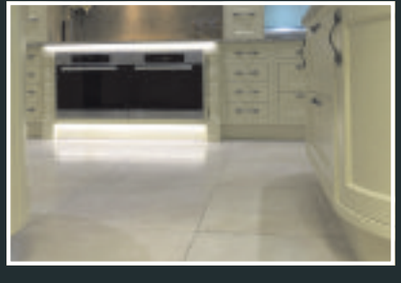

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# SHOPPING IN MID STAFFORDSHIRE

## Stars in their eyes

*Susie Morris won last year's Star Mum Award*

**TO recognise the hidden heroes of the local community, Cannock Shopping Centre runs an annual Star Award campaign, which seeks to reward the unsung champions of Cannock whose hard work and courage may otherwise go unnoticed.**

From a Young Sporting Hero and Star Mum to a Spooky Star Story writer and Star Pa, these past campaigns have been a great way to honour local heroes with special awards and presentations.

2015 will be no different and the centre has plenty planned to keep everyone entertained over the course of the next few months.

In May, the search will begin for an exceptional Cannock Star Teacher that regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty whilst nominations for fantastic local fathers will be sought for a special competition during June to honour Father's Day in a more significant way than the usual card and pair of socks.

Summer at the centre this year will feature an array of pirate fun, which is set to take place on Saturday, July 18, with a 'booty-ful' treasure hunt, pirate walkabout character and even a creative summer postcard competition.

For more information on the latest promotions, competitions and activities at the centre, please visit http://www.cannock-shopping.co.uk/ 'like' the centre on Facebook 'CannockShoppingCentre' and follow on Twitter @CannockSC

*Rugeley has a wealth of shops to browse*

## Shopping with a personal touch

Brewery Street shopping centre has served Rugeley for many years and is home to a range of independent retailers proud to offer excellent customer service and prices.

Approaching the centre you find a series of outside shops, also part of Brewery Street. These include a florist, pet supplies, gift shop, knitting and crafts, Shabby Chic, sewing alterations, convenience shop and a taxi office.

Inside you find Dyson reviver's – vacuum sales and repairs – and Starstruck costumes – hire and fancy dress sales.

Venturing further, Tracy's Angels, Reborn artist and Webb's Hardware.

Perfumes 4 You stockists of fragrances and linen, opposite which is Nib Nabs Menswear for larger sized males.

Mayfair computers, Keeran's Cards and MW Jewellery Repairs lead you down to the cafe just before which is Those Old Records. Just around the corner is Magpie for all your favourite toys and collectables, plus a new beauty salon.

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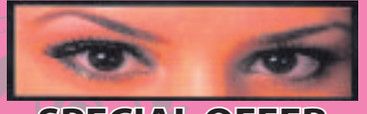

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*The busy market is situated in the centre of Penkridge, just off the A449*

*About 100 stall holders will be at the market on Easter Monday*

# Bag a bargain and have fun at market

**IF you're looking for somewhere to go this bank holiday, then why not pop along to Penkridge Market, which will be holding a fantastic market and car boot sale, on Monday, April 6.**

The event will run from 9am to 3pm and with free admission and free parking, it's a great free day out for all the family.

Around 100 market stall holders will be selling everything from fresh bread, coffee, cakes and cheeses, to plants, handbags and hardware. And with their new indoor units, plus hard standing area, there's plenty to look at, whatever the weather.

The children will also have lots to keep them entertained, with a bouncy castle and of course their favourite sweet and toy stalls.

If you fancy a bargain then don't miss the car boot sale, with approximately 50 'car booters' expected. It's amazing what you can find – everything from tools and toys, to books, CD's, clothes, and even the odd antique. But if you want to take part yourself and turn some of your unwanted possessions into cash, then simply turn up on the day from 7am. The site is all hard standing (so no muddy fields) and with a fee of just £8 per car, you're bound to make a great profit.

Matt Williams, Manager of Penkridge Market said: "People love our bank holiday markets as they not only save customers money, but give them a fantastic day out as well. Everyone loves a bargain and in these difficult times, people want to make some money too. So what better way to do it than combining buying from your local market and selling at a car boot fair too."

Penkridge Market is situated in the centre of Penkridge, and is signposted off the A449. It is easily accessible from Junction 12 of the M6 and is only six miles from Stafford; seven miles from Cannock and 10 miles from Wolverhampton (postcode ST19 5AP). Admission and parking is free.

For further information call 01785 714221 or www.penkridgemarket.co.uk

# Thriving hub of a county town

Cannock Shopping Centre is a thriving hub in the heart of Cannock and it's not difficult to see why residents love to drop in! With hundreds of thousands of visitors passing through its doors every month, the centre offers shoppers everything from famous high street stores to unique independent retailers and eateries.

A fully enclosed shopping mall with two entrances offering level pedestrian access from Market Hall Street and the town's bus station stepped and ramped entrance, it's an easily reachable destination for all of Cannock's residents. A venue perfect for catching up with friends or keeping little ones entertained, visitors can pop by in order to track down the latest game releases, enjoy a seasonal bargain find or simply bag a fabulous new outfit.

*Cannock Shopping Centre*

The centre features over 30 retailers including high street brands New Look, Holland & Barrett, Game, JD Sports and Costa Coffee, as well as value stores such as Crazy Daisy, Kiss & Makeup and 99p Stores +plus, which offer hordes of hidden bargains. Many stores view the centre as a location of choice due to its prime position in the very core of Cannock town centre.

The local community is an important part of the centre and exciting activities and competitions are hosted regularly in order to treat shoppers to more than simply fantastic shopping services. To date, this has included Christmas, Halloween and Easter fun days, Macmillan Coffee Mornings and even pampering Makeover My Mum competitions.

For more information on the latest promotions, competitions and activities at the centre, please visit http://www.cannock-shopping.co.uk/ 'like' the centre on Facebook 'CannockShoppingCentre' and follow on Twitter @CannockSC

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BY Phone – 01543 465327, 01902 317878

Announcements must be supplied by 12noon on Monday For the same weeks publication.

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Saturday 4th April

Come along and visit our Spring Garden in **Sherwood Square** by Debenhams this Easter Holiday with loads of exciting activities to keep the kids happy including Storytelling, Easter characters and lots more!

Check our website for details of what's happening and when.

TELFORD SHOPPING CENTRE
www.telfordshopping.co.uk

# SHOPPING FURTHER AFIELD

*The Southwater development at Telford Shopping Centre is popular*

*Children's TV favourite Mr Bloom*

# Fun events and more to explore

**SPRING is here and Telford Shopping Centre's Sherwood Square is being transformed into an exciting spring garden this Easter holiday.**

From March 30 to April 11, there will be lots of fun events including storytelling, character visits, competitions and much more.

The shopping centre is also really pleased to announce that TV's Mr Bloom will be appearing on Saturday, where he will perform his informal stage show demonstrating fun ways to inspire kids to learn about nature and the environment.

All events will take place at intervals, between 10am and 4pm, in Sherwood Square outside Debenhams.

## Opportunities

With over 160 stores including House of Fraser, M&S, BHS, Debenhams and Zara, there are plenty of opportunities to check out the spring fashions in between performances. After browsing the stores why not treat yourself to a meal in the new Southwater development? This recently redeveloped area has restaurants such as Bella Italia, Chimichanga and Nandos, to name just a few.

For full details of events, including performance times, and shopping centre opening times, visit the website at www.telfordshopping.co.uk

Telford Shopping Centre will be closed on Easter Sunday.

# fast theticket

## Mind Games

Derren Brown
– Page 75



## All aboard

The Ghost Train is on its way – Page 75

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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| Thursday 9th | Country Band |
| Saturday 11th | Run Devil Run |
| Thursday 16th | Apex Jazz and Swing band |
| Saturday 18th | Steve Knight |
| Thursday 23rd | St Georges Day disco with Cathy Christian |
| Thursday 30th | Knoxville Highway |

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## Nicki Minaj

Friday, 7.30pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
Rap's reigning queen brings The Pinkprint Tour to Birmingham on Friday. The tour also features Grammy Award-nominated R&B superstar Trey Songz.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

## The Chuckles Of Oz

Saturday, 2pm & 5pm
Grand Theatre, W'ton
Take a glimpse into The Emerald City in a show packed with all the ingredients of a family show which will include audience participation and laugh-out-loud comedy.
Visit **www.thegrandtheatre.co.uk**

## Lee Nelson

Saturday – Stafford Gatehouse
Sunday – Wulfrun, W'ton
Lee Nelson is back with a brand new suit and a new stand-up show full of fresh gags. He appears in Stafford on Saturday and will be in Wolverhampton on Sunday.
**Visit venue websites**

## Gadget Show Live

Tuesday - April 12, from 9am
NEC, B'ham
The Gadget Show Live is returning to the NEC Birmingham for its 7th year. The Gadget Show brings the very best and very latest tech under one roof for you to try and buy.
Visit **www.thenec.co.uk**

## POP & ROCK

**Nicki Minaj**
Friday at 7.30pm,
£45.14 - £56.39
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham,
B1 2PZ. Call 0121 780 4141

**ELO Again**
Friday at 7.30pm, £12 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

**Paul Parker & Friends**
Saturday at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

**We Will Rock Yow**
Friday at 8pm, £3
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

**Limehouse Lizzy**
Sun at 8pm, £12
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

**Dirty DC**
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£9 - £13
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

**Definitely Might Be**
Sun at 7.30pm, 7.30pm,
£8 - £11.25
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

**Talon – Best Of Eagles**
Thu at 7.30pm,
£14.50 - £24.25
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**The Solid Silver 60s Show**
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£24.50 - £29
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Buddy and the Illegal Crickets**
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£15 - £16
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

**Of Mice & Men**
Friday at 6pm, £18.56
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

**Edgar Broughton**
Wed at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

**Ian Parker & his band**
Thu at 7.30pm,
£12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

**Sleeping With Sirens & Pierce The Veil**
Wed at 6pm, £22.50
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

**Miles Hunt Book Reading**
Sun at 8pm, £16.50
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552106

**Box Of Light**
Sun at 7pm, £7.05
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

## JAZZ & BLUES

**Rattlesnake Jake**
Friday at 8pm - 2am, £5
Moochers, Stourbridge,
DY8 1PH.
Call 01384 671141

**The Harp Live Jazz (April)**
Sun at 12.30pm, Tue at 8.30pm,
Free
The Harp Hotel, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3JF.
Call 01902 374381

## RNB & SOUL

**An Evening with The Atlantic Players**
Friday at 8pm, £8.00 Adv
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Irish Session**
Wed at 8pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

**Brewood Acoustic Club Singers' Night**
Thu at 8pm, £2(£1 singers)
Brewood Cricket Club,
ST19 9HX.
Call 01902 850422

**Sandpiper Folk Club Night**
Wed at 7.45pm, £2
Pigot Arms, Pattingham,
Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
Call 01902 700207

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**G4**
Sun at 7.30pm, £29
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

**Good Friday Bach St Matthew Passion**
Friday at 2pm, £9.50 - £40
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

## THEATRE

**CBeebies Live!**
Tue at 1.30pm, 4.45pm,
£19.18 - £33.74
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

**Derren Brown**
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 7.30pm,
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,
£39.90
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

**Tall Stories: The Snail and the Whale**
Thu at 1.30pm, 4.30pm,
£8 - £28
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

**The Chuckles of Oz**
Saturday at 2pm, 5pm,
£12.75 - £16.90
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

**Shrek the Musical**
Friday, Saturday, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Sun at 1pm, 5pm,
Saturday at 2.30pm,
£18.50 - £45
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Rent**
Friday at 7.30pm, £10
Wolverhampton Grammar School, V3 9RB.
Call 01902 421326

**David Lacey**
Friday at 7.30pm, £10 - £14
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

**The Business of Murder..**
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm,
Saturday at 2.30pm,
£11 - £25
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

**Beautiful Thing**
Friday, Saturday, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.45pm, Friday, Saturday at 2.30pm, £30
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**The Basil Brush Show**
Friday at 11am, 2.30pm,
£12 - £45
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

**And This Is My Friend Mr Laurel**
Thu at 2.30pm, £11 - £25
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

**DogFight**
Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

**The Ghost Train**
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £12 - £25.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

**The Saltley Stories**
Mon at 6pm,
The Drum, Aston on Carrant,
Birmingham, B6 4UU.
Call 0121 333 2400

## COMEDY

**Lee Nelson**
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£20 - £22
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Sun at 7pm, £20 - £22
The Wulfrun,
Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.
Call 01902 552106

**Patrick Monahan**
Thu at 7.30pm, £14
The Old Joint Stock,
Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

**Comedy Carousel**
Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**Andrew Lawrence**
Thu at 7pm, £12 - £15.40
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552106

**A Black Country Night Out**
Wed at 7.30pm, £18
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

**Fitz of Laughter**
Friday at 7.30pm, £5
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

## TALKS

**Zulu Dawn**
Wed at 4.30pm - 5.30pm,
Free
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

## ART EXHIBITIONS

**Wolverhampton: New Art West Midlands**
Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

**The Current Situation**
Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

**Life on the Cut**
Friday, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Saturday at 10am - 4pm,
Free
Walsall Museum,WS1 1TR.
Call 01922 653116

**Watercolour Society Exhibition**
Friday, Saturday, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 4pm,
Free
Weston Park, Telford,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

**Enjoy Art Exhibition Series**
Friday, Saturday, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am, Free
The Shugborough Estate,
Stafford, ST17 0XB.
Call 01889 881388

## OTHER EVENTS

**Disney On Ice presents**
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 3pm, 7pm, Saturday, Sun at 11am,
£19.18 - £46.62
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

**Gadget Show Live**
Tue, Wed, Thu at 9am,
£22.99 - £31.99
National Exhibition Centre,
Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

**Transport Show**
Sun, Mon at 10.30am - 5pm,
£3 - £9
Weston Park,
Weston-under-Lizard, Telford,
TF11 8LE. Call 01952 852100

## EASTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

**Easter Rockschool**
Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 3pm,
£60
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

**Easter Family Fun Day**
Mon at 10.30am - 4pm, Free
Walsall Leather Museum, WS2 8EQ. Call 01922 721153

**Easter Eggventures**
Friday at 10am - 5pm,
Saturday, Sun at 2pm - 5pm,
£1.50 - £3.50
Selly Manor Museum,
Birmingham, B30 1UB.
Call 0121 472 0199

**Make a Felted Egg**
Tue at 11am - 12.30pm, 1.30pm - 3pm, £3
Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, WV14 7LU.
Call 01902 552507

**Make a Spring Posey**
Thu at 11am - 12.30pm, 1.30pm - 3pm, £3
Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, WV14 7LU.
Call 01902 552507

**Stagecoach Easter Workshop**
Tue, Wed, Thu at 9.30am - 4pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

**Cadbury Easter Egg Trail**
Saturday, Sun, Mon at 11am - 4pm, £2.50
Moseley Old Hall,
Featherstone, Wolverhampton,
WV10 7HY.
Call 01902 782808

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

# Master of illusion prays for a Miracle

'Magic is based in dishonesty. So you have to work harder to make it have artistic merit or relevance,' says Derren Brown

MIND-BENDING master of illusion Derren Brown is bringing his latest show, Miracle, to the West Midlands to amaze and baffle audiences.

Previous shows Svengali and Infamous have left packed venues stunned. This will be his seventh production since 2003 but the award-winning showman, who uses psychology to create the illusion of supernatural powers, is giving few clues on what to expect this time.

"As ever, I ask people to keep the contents of the show a secret," says the two-time Olivier Award winner.

"But I can certainly say that this show has a more philosophical flavour and looks at ways of thinking that may make us happier.

"In some ways it's the boldest, most contentious show yet. But audiences are responding well to it and I just love doing it — it's quite a roller-coaster.

Having performed to one and a half million people over 13 years, Croydon-born Brown says the magic genre can continue to break boundaries.

"Magic is a very childish thing at heart: the quickest, most fraudulent route to impressing people. It's based in dishonesty. So you have to work harder to make it have artistic merit or relevance."

Miracle will be at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre until April 11.

# Dare you catch the Ghost Train?

ON a dark and stormy night, when a group of passengers are stranded at a remote rural railway stop for the night, the station-master's chilling story of a phantom loco that is an omen of death apparently begins to come true.

Arnold Ridley's comedy thriller The Ghost Train is a British classic that is being brought to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, April 7 to 11, in a production starring actors Walsall-born Jeffrey Holland and his real life wife Judy Buxton. Ridley was inspired to write The Ghost Train after being forced to spend the night at Mangotsfield station near Bristol. But he is probably best known from his latter years when he played the bumbling Private Godfrey in the BBC comedy Dad's Army.

## Suggested

The cast for this new production of his best known play will also feature some familiar faces from TV comedy, led by Jeffrey Holland, no stranger to the railway setting having starred in Oh Doctor Beeching! He is best known for the 1980s sitcoms Hi-de-Hi! and You Rang M'Lord?

Educated at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Jeffrey had no aspirations to act until a friend suggested they go to local drama group for something to do. He fell victim to the acting bug and, as a result, he joined The Minster Players Amateur Dramatic Society where, at 19, he decided it was to be an actor's life for him. He went on to formally train at The Birmingham School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art and made his professional debut in Henry Cecil's play No Fear Or Favour at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, in 1967.

## Soap villain joins Grand's angry men

ONE of TV's most popular actors, Jason Merrells, will lead the cast in the upcoming production of Twelve Angry Men when it is staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in May.

The classic court drama is touring after a successful run in London's West End.

Merrells, best known for playing Emmerdale villain Declan Macey, will play juror number 8 – the role made famous by Henry Fonda in the movie version — but will only join the cast at four UK venues, including the Grand from May 18 to 23.

His start to TV success was in hit hospital drama Casualty and he went on to have leading roles in Cutting It and Waterloo Road.

## Garbutt coming to play the NAC

VIN Garbutt, who is now back in full swing after a long illness, is playing at the Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton on Saturday April 18.

GARBUTT will be supported by Stourbridge blues/folkman Sunjay Brayne.

The show starts 7.30pm and tickets are £12.50 plus a 10 per cent booking fee.

The Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford welcomes Liverpudlian Gary Edward Jones on Friday April 17.

Tickets for members cost £7 and non-members pay £1 more. Shows start around 8.30pm.

## Little Mo makes it to Downing Street

TEN Downing Street comes under the spotlight in Steve Thompson's hard-hitting comedy Feed The Beast at Birmingham Rep Studio Theatre from April 16 to May 2.

The latest play from the Sherlock and Doctor Who writer looks at the first 100 days of a British Prime Minster. The cast includes National Theatre actor Gerald Kyd as the PM and Kacey Ainsworth, who was Little Mo in EastEnders, as Downing Street's chief of staff.

Director Peter Rowe said: "It is rare to be offered the chance to direct a new play like Steve's that talks about issues which are so of the moment."

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The Chronicle Thursday, April 2, 2015

Sizzle kicks starter with chicken tikka was nicely spiced

Vegetable samosas always prove popular

Range of dishes available at Regards in Anchor Road, Aldridge

Tables all nicely laid out and service is spot on

# Highest Regards as restaurant curries favour for good service

**GOING for a curry has become something of a favourite pastime in Blighty. The suggestion of a night eating a spicy meat dish brings fist pumps from friends and family all over the country.**

By Leigh Sanders

It's become as much a part of our culture as tea, football and – unfortunately – the term of endearment 'bae'.

A good curry can banish a cold; I'm not sure a doctor would prescribe one but it works. I swear.

So three of us headed out to Regards in Aldridge on one particularly cold, dank evening to stick two fingers up to the miserable weather.

We were ruddy hungry. It'd been a long day. So a curry seemed the best remedy to our grumbling bellies. We'd been before, so knew what to expect. The service, as always, was spot on from the off.

Coats were taken immediately. A prime seating located near a heater was offered. Drinks orders were taken without a pause.

And so we were left to peruse the menu once the pleasantries were completed. The choice here is great. There's a lot of what you'd expect – Balti dishes, bhunas, kormas, rogans. But there are also some treats too.

## Choice

Regards offer a selection of combination dishes for those feeling under pressure from all the choice on offer. Adore two curries and unsure which one you want today? Have them both. This section of the menu offers up a variety of options. And if none quite suits your taste, just put a quiet request in and a combination of your choice isn't usually a problem. Regards also claim to be specialists in Tawa dishes. Either chicken, lamb or prawn, they're cooked with diced onions, green peppers and aromatic herbs and spices.

I opted for the sheek kebab to start. They were plump, juicy and full of flavour. Sometimes meat dishes like these can be a little dry, but certainly not on this occasion. Thumbs up!

It's never difficult to catch the eye of a member of staff and they attend immediately. Drinks were topped up and we were ready for the mains.

Here is where the combination dishes came into play. Chicken jalfrezi and lamb masala arrived, accompanied by pilau rice and a cheese naan.

The portions, again, were spot on. There was enough of each curry to get a real taste without pushing you over the edge. The rice was great at soaking up the sauce and the naan, a little light on cheese maybe, certainly benefitted from a variety of flavours to be dipped into.

What can also be noted here is these curries feel quite light for their food type. Sometimes Indian food can be too rich and heavy, but this is certainly not the case here. It makes a nice change.

## Ideal

However, it must also be said that they're a little light on the spice. This would be the ideal place for somebody just starting out on their curry voyage; even the medium dishes are very kind to the taste buds. Pretty full we didn't feel we could manage a dessert.

It was not much of a wait for the bill – a real bugbear of ours when the opposite occurs and the polite staff more than earned their tip.


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## CHOICE

Amanda Mealing

**Casualty**
**(BBC1, 9.10pm)**
Connie continues to help her friend Alfred, who has motor neurone disease, and gives him special treatment. But as his condition deteriorates, she is placed in a quandary when he asks her to help him die. A former heroin addict lies about his past to protect his future wife, little realising the danger he is putting himself in, while a young woman is brought in after deliberately crashing her car to claim on the insurance. Ethan discovers that Cal stole his money, Taylor disappears and Iain applies for a new job. With a guest appearance from veteran singer and actress Anita Harris alongside Amanda Mealing, Richard Winsor, George Rainsford, William Beck, Lee Mead, Jane Hazlegrove and Michael Stevenson.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.15 Film:** Rise of the Guardians. (2012) Premiere. Magical beings from folklore unite to defeat an evil spirit plotting to steal the dreams of children. Animated adventure, with the voices of Chris Pine and Alec Baldwin.

**6.40 BBC News.**

**6.50 Regional Programme.**

**7.00 The Voice UK.** After seven weeks of blind auditions, two battles, two knockout rounds and two live shows, the final is here – with just four contestants remaining, all eager to be crowned winner and pick up a recording contract. Who will the public choose as The Voice 2015? Presented by Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. Last in the series.

**9.10 Casualty.** Connie continues to help her friend Alfred, who has motor neurone disease, and gives him special treatment. But as his condition deteriorates, she is placed in a quandary when he asks her to help him die. A former heroin addict lies about his past to protect his future wife, little realising the danger he is putting himself in, while a young woman is brought in after deliberately crashing her car to claim on the insurance. Ethan discovers that Cal stole his money, Taylor disappears and Iain applies for a new job. With a guest appearance from veteran singer and actress Anita Harris.

**10.00 The National Lottery Live.** The all-important winning numbers are revealed.

**10.10 BBC News**; Weather.

**10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Arsenal v Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium and Everton v Southampton at Goodison Park; National Lottery Update.

**11.55 Film: Surrogates.** (2009) An FBI agent in a future where people only interact through robot doubles ventures into the real world to catch a killer. Sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis.

**1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.05** Animal Park. (R) **7.05** The Football League Show. (R) **8.25 Film:** The Sword in the Stone. (1963) **9.40** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. (R) **10.10** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. (R) **10.40** Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. (R) **11.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **12.00** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) **1.35** Great Directors: Talking Pictures. **2.20 Film:** Wuthering Heights. (1939) Period drama, starring Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier. **4.00** Kew on a Plate. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.30** Easter from King's.

**6.45 Film: The Young Victoria.** (2009) The turbulent early years of the monarch who, shortly after being crowned, became caught in a power struggle between her mother and scheming politicians Lord Melbourne and Sir Robert Peel. Meanwhile, a romance develops with her German cousin and eventual husband, Prince Albert. Historical drama, with Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bettany and Miranda Richardson.

**8.25 Dad's Army.** Pike borrows Mainwaring's new staff car to take his girlfriend to the cinema – but it breaks down, leaving the lovebirds stranded in the middle of nowhere. (R)

**9.00 Monteverdi in Mantua: The Genius of the Vespers.** Simon Russell Beale travels to Italy to explore the volatile relationship between the Duke of Mantua and his court composer Claudio Monteverdi during the late Italian Renaissance.

**10.00 QI XL.** Extended edition. Suggs, Claudia O'Doherty, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies attempt to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the theme of long-lost things.

**10.45 Rik Mayall: Lord of Misrule.** Simon Callow narrates a celebration of the comedian and actor's life and work, with contributions by Michael Palin, Simon Pegg, Lenny Henry, Ben Elton and Tim McInnerny. (R)

**11.45 Film: A Beautiful Mind.** (2001) Biopic of brilliant mathematician John Nash, whose genius was compromised by paranoid delusions and schizophrenia. Oscar-winning drama, starring Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany.

**1.55 Film:** Revenge of the Bridesmaids. (2010) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40 Film:** The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery. (1966) Comedy, starring Frankie Howerd. **3.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.00** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.00** Thunderbirds Are Go.

**6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.15 ITV News**; Weather.

**6.30 New You've Been Framed!** New series. Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' home videos.

**7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Little Ant and Dec put England captain Wayne Rooney through his paces with their cheeky style of questioning, and Ashley Roberts challenges the hosts in the final round of Ant v Dec, as 2014 champion Dec tries to retain his title. Broadchurch actress Olivia Colman is the star guest announcer, and as usual, a member of the studio audience plays for the contents of a commercial break. Last in the series.

**8.30 You're Back in the Room.** Diversity pose as mannequins for the hypnotised contestants to decorate, with a general knowledge quiz, flower-arranging task and pizza-making also on the menu. Last in the series.

**9.35 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host welcomes Kylie Minogue, Ethan Hawke, Bear Grylls and Clare Balding, and introduces music by Brits Critics' Choice winner James Bay. Last in the series.

**10.30 ITV News**; Weather.

**10.50 Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall.** (2008) A jilted man takes a trip to Hawaii, only to find his ex and her new boyfriend are staying at the same resort. Romantic comedy, with Jason Segel, Kristen Bell and Russell Brand.

**12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.35** Frasier. (R) **11.05** Frasier. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Kempton Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. A week of dinner parties in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. (R) **5.15** The Simpsons. Bart catches Principal Skinner in a compromising situation. (R) **5.45** The Simpsons. Bart acquires a credit card. (R)

**6.10 The Simpsons.** Homer strikes up an unlikely friendship with Chief Wiggum during a stint of community service, but the honeymoon period is brought to an abrupt end during a showdown with Fat Tony. (R)

**6.40 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 The Lakes: Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson walks 50 miles from Penrith to Ambleside and on to the Irish Sea at Ravenglass, exploring how the Romans conquered the Lake District. (R)

**8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather.** A flash flood in New Zealand that washed a dozen eels onto a street, a swarm of seemingly flying spiders in Brazil, and a strange wave that submerged an entire town in Argentina. (R)

**9.00 End of the World Night.** Humans started predicting the end of the world around 5,000 years ago, but while prophets have warned of impending doom, today scientists are anxious about the possibility of global Armageddon, and it's a subject that fascinates many – frequently tackled in blockbuster films. In this one-off special, some of the world's foremost academics evaluate the many threats to civilisation, and reveal how it could all end.

**10.35 Film: Knowing.** (2009) An astrophysicist decodes a page of numbers revealing the dates of a series of disasters and tries to prevent them happening. Mystery thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Rose Byrne.

**12.55** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **1.50 Film:** French Connection II. (1975) **3.55** Hollyoaks. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.30** SpongeBob SquarePants. **11.05** Access. **11.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.05 Film:** The Devil's Brigade. (1968) **4.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

**6.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** A special edition of the programme giving an insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of people who owe money, their creditors and those who collect the payments. There are updates on some of the stories featured in the series earlier in the year, while two new cases reveal that life-changing debt can affect anyone – no matter how wealthy they appear to be. (R)

**7.15 Police Interceptors.** Jim intercepts a car containing cannabis, a late-night reveller talks himself into trouble and Sgt Baxter has his work cut out when confronted by a dishonest driver. (R)

**8.00 5 News Weekend.**

**8.05 NCIS.** An investigation into a rape and murder revives harrowing memories for Ducky, who once worked on a similar case in which the killer was never captured and vowed to return. (R)

**9.00 NCIS: The Port-to-Port Killer.** The agents examine the death of a seaman and find themselves working alongside Barrett. Gibbs makes his displeasure about the circumstances of the case well known, prompting the rest of the investigators to worry that he might be about to leave the NCIS again. Meanwhile, Ziva introduces her new boyfriend to her team-mates. (R)

**10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** Russell and the team investigate a suspected hit-and-run, but the lack of skid marks on the road and the unusual impact angle leads them to think that this could be a suicide.

**10.55 Film: Educating Rita.** (1983) A Liverpool hairdresser enrols on an Open University course, bringing much-needed inspiration to a boozy, world-weary tutor. Comedy drama, starring Michael Caine.

**1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Grand Theft Auto: UK. (R) **4.00** Nanna Love: 50 Shades of Granny. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **8.00** Top Gear **9.10 Film:** Pretty Woman (1990) **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** Killer Magic **1.05** Hirn & Her: The Wedding **3.30** Great TV Mistakes **4.00** Close

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Chemistry – A Volatile History **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.40** Definitely Dusty **11.40** Dusty Springfield at the BBC **12.40** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.15** Disco at the BBC **2.15** Wild China **3.15** Sounds of the 70s 2: Art House Glam – Get in the Swing **3.45** Close

**ITV2**

**12.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.20** Reggie & Thunderbirds: No Strings Attached **2.25 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **4.30** Mr Bean **5.40 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **7.30 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **10.00** Celebrity Juice: Easter Special **10.50** Ibiza Weekender **11.50 Film:** Death Race (2008) **1.55** Hell's Kitchen **2.35** Crazy Beaches **3.00** Teleshopping

**ITV3**

**11.20 Film:** Carry On Jack (1963) **1.10 Film:** Carry On Cowboy (1966) **3.10 Film:** Carry On Screaming (1966) **5.05 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **7.05 Film:** Carry On Cleo (1964) **9.00** Carry On Forever **10.00 Film:** Carry On Camping (1969) **11.50 Film:** 10 Little Indians (1974) **1.50** On the Buses **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**1.50 Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **3.45 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.55** Shed and Buried **7.55** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **11.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. **1.30** Anthony Joshua: The Journey **2.30** Nitro Circus **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.30** Melissa & Joey **12.30** Baby Daddy **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Rush Hour 3 (2007) **10.50** Rude Tube **11.50** Troy **12.55** The 100 **1.50** 2 Broke Girls **2.20** How I Met Your Mother **3.50** Taking New York **4.45** Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special

**Film4**

**11.00** The Lost World (1960) **1.00** My Neighbour Totoro (1988) **2.50** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **4.40** Inkheart (2008) **6.50** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **9.00** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.10** Vehicle 19 (2013) **12.50** The Omen (1976) **3.15** Close


# What the Bible Teaches

... about death. Death is not a gateway for a separate spirit to some life of bliss, but the final end to man's existance, "when the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit (i.e. Breath of Life *a*) will return to God who gave it" *b*

Also Ecclesiastes clearly tells us "... there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" *c*. There is no mention in the Bible of people having 'immortal souls'; in fact the Apostle Paul stated categorically to Timothy "...God (The Potentate)... who alone has immortality..." *d* Ezekial says twice, "The soul who sins shall die." *e* But GOD pleads with man to "...turn, and live!" *f* this plea is repeated throughout scripture e.g By Moses *g* and laster by Jesus himelf: "everyone who sees the Son and believes... I will raise him up on the last day" *h*

*a Ecclesiastes 12v7; b Genesis 2v7; c Ecclesiastes 9v10; d 1 Timothy 6v15-16 e Ezekiel 18v 48-20; f Ezekiel 18v 32; g Deuteronomy 30v 15; h John 6v 40*

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## CHOICE

Julie Walters

**Indian Summers (Channel 4, 9pm)**

As the British community turns out in force for the murder trial, Ian is racked with guilt about Ramu's arrest and prepares to act as his alibi, while Sooni takes advantage of the court case to gain some much-needed legal experience. Leena is torn apart in the witness box, causing Dougie to publicly support her – a move that humiliates Sarah. Ralph is terrified that the truth of Adam's true paternity will be revealed, while Aafrin finally admits his true feelings for Alice. Drama set during the summer of 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Starring JAlyy Khan, Ikhlaque Khan, Edward Hogg, Julie Walters, Henry Lloyd-Hughes, Rick Warden, Peter Sullivan and Aysha Kala.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Peter. **10.00** Live Easter Sunday – From Manchester Cathedral. **11.00** Urbi et Orbi. **11.25** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15 Film:** The Muppets. (2011) Comedy, starring Jason Segel. **2.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.55** The Truth About Fat. (R) **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

**6.00 Countryfile.** The show comes from the Brecklands of Norfolk, where for Easter Sunday Matt Baker learns all about the importance of rabbits to the area – from their part in maintaining the heath to the link between rabbits and the stone-curlew, one of the rarest visiting birds. Ellie Harrison goes foraging for scrap metal to make sculptures, and visits Grimes Graves – the remains of Neolithic flint mines – and James Wong is in Liverpool for the launch of the Grow Wild campaign. Plus, Tom Heap reveals how the supply of fresh potatoes is outstripping demand. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**7.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team visit Belton House in Lincolnshire, where finds include Chairman Mao memorabilia and a funeral standard reportedly snatched from Oliver Cromwell's coffin.

**8.00 Michael McIntyre's Easter Night at the Coliseum.** The comedian presents an evening of variety from the Coliseum Theatre in London.

**9.00 Poldark.** Ross tries to form an alliance with his fellow mine-owners to build their own smelting company, Demelza resolves to reconcile Verity with Captain Blamey, and Mark has a new love.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League matches, which were Sunderland v Newcastle United at the Stadium of Light and Burnley v Tottenham Hotspur at Turf Moor.

**11.30 Film: Son of Rambow.** (2007) Comedy, with Bill Milner.

**1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **6.35** Countryfile. (R) **7.35** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.05** The Gospel of John. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **11.30** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **12.30** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.30 Film:** King of Kings. (1961) **4.05** Flog It! (R) **4.50 Film:** Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time. (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

**6.35 Pompidou.** The heater in the caravan breaks down. Last in the series.

**7.00 Springwatch at Easter.** The wildlife programme returns for a one-off edition showcasing the best of British wildlife just as the countryside is bursting into colour and life and the breeding season is getting under way. Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan will be hoping for plenty of eggs at one of the UK's largest seabird colonies, Martin Hughes-Games reports from Suffolk and Simon King is on Islay in the Inner Hebrides. (R)

**8.00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve.** Simon begins the last leg of his journey in Nicaragua and visits the Rama-Kriol people, who face losing their ancestral homes due to the construction of a new transoceanic waterway. Simon then discovers Hondurans living in the grip of some of the most violent criminal gangs in the world, with San Pedro Sula having the highest murder rate of any city on the planet. Last in the series.

**9.00 Louis Theroux: Transgender Kids.** Louis travels to San Francisco, where he spends time with children who are undergoing gender-reassignment treatment at UCSF Hospital's Child and Adolescent Gender Centre.

**10.00 Bluestone 42.** New room-mates Ellen and Bird soon start bickering and Towerblock keeps putting off the difficult phone call home to his wife.

**10.30 Jack Dee – So What?** A 2013 stand-up performance at London's Hammersmith Apollo.

**11.30 Film: Invincible.** (2006) Fact-based sporting drama about an American football fan given the chance to play for the team he has supported all his life. With Mark Wahlberg.

**1.10 Film:** Hooper. (1978) **2.45** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.40** Holby City. (R) **4.40** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.45** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.10 Film:** Agent Cody Banks. (2003) **4.05** Reggie & Thunderbirds: No Strings Attached. **5.05** Catchphrase. (R)

**6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.10 ITV News**; Weather.

**6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Olympic gold medallist Greg Rutherford, Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph, Emmerdale's Matthew Wolfenden and football pundit Chris Kamara play for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)

**7.30 Off Their Rockers.** Pamela looks for love on a dating app, Seb mixes up his medication and Rosemary takes a peek at her grandson's internet history.

**8.00 Vera.** New series. Return of the crime drama starring Brenda Blethyn. The detective investigates a fire that rips through a holiday park on the Northumberland coast, destroying three cabins. A young woman's body is discovered and the resort's owner, Jim Viner, fears the victim is his sister Deena when he returns from a weekend away with his daughter Clare. With Jim's suspicions confirmed, a police report then reveals Clare's boyfriend Ryan and his friends had been partying near the scene hours before the blaze started, but where are they now, and where is Deena's best friend Sally?

**10.00 ITV News**; Weather.

**10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.** The three remaining contenders battle to be crowned winner, as they abseil down a waterfall and follow the sound of a distress signal through a mangrove swamp. Last in the series. (R)

**11.20 The Nation's Favourite 70s Number One.** The 20 greatest hits of the 1970s, as voted for by the public, featuring interviews with hit-makers such as Art Garfunkel, Blondie, Abba and Gloria Gaynor. Narrated by Zoe Ball. (R)

**12.40** The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05** How I Met Your Mother. **6.30** How I Met Your Mother. **6.55** How I Met Your Mother. **7.15** How I Met Your Mother. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** Honey, I Blew Up the Kid. (1992) A scientist perfects a device for enlarging objects, but accidentally turns his infant son into a giant. Disney comedy sequel, with Rick Moranis. **4.40 Film:** Hop. (2011) The Easter bunny's son abandons the chocolate-delivering business to seek his fortune in Hollywood. Part-animated comedy, starring James Marsden, with the voice of Russell Brand.

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Three in a Bed.** A week of competitive B&B hosting, featuring a loud student party, supercar-racing at Silverstone, some cordon-bleu cooking and a slice of rural bliss.

**8.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel along the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal in a coast-to-coast adventure from Edinburgh to Glasgow. Last in the series.

**9.00 Indian Summers.** As the British community turns out in force for the murder trial, Ian is racked with guilt about Ramu's arrest and prepares to act as his alibi, while Sooni takes advantage of the court case to gain some much-needed legal experience. Leena is torn apart in the witness box, causing Dougie to publicly support her – a move that humiliates Sarah. Ralph is terrified that the truth of Adam's true paternity will be revealed, while Aafrin finally admits his true feelings for Alice.

**10.05 Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

**11.10 Film: The Angels' Share.** (2012) Four people on community service plan to turn their fortunes around by stealing a cask of valuable whisky. Ken Loach's comedy drama, starring Paul Brannigan and John Henshaw.

**1.00 Film:** Qissa: The Tale of a Lonely Ghost. (2013) **2.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Jamie's Money Saving Meals. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.40** Chloe's Closet. (R) **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.25** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.55** Zack and Quack. **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.30** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.45** LazyTown. **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45 Film:** Thomas & Friends: Tale of the Brave. (2014) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Small. **10.55** Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards 2015. **12.05 Film:** Patch Adams. (1998) Comedy drama, with Robin Williams. **2.20 Film:** Baby Boom. (1987) Comedy, starring Diane Keaton. **4.25 Film:** Fairytale: A True Story. (1997) Fact-based drama, with Florence Hoath and Elizabeth Earl.

**6.15 5 News Weekend.**

**6.20 Film: Kelly's Heroes.** (1970) A rebellious American soldier fighting in occupied France learns from a captive German officer the whereabouts of a fortune in Nazi gold. Recruiting the aid of three fellow soldiers, he puts together a daring plan to penetrate enemy lines to get their hands on the bullion. Second World War adventure, starring Clint Eastwood, Telly Savalas, Donald Sutherland, Don Rickles and Harry Dean Stanton. Edited for language.

**9.00 Film: Hummingbird.** (2013) Premiere. A haunted special forces soldier returns to London from Afghanistan and assumes another man's identity, hoping to make a fresh start. He is drawn into the city's criminal underworld, where his skills prove valuable to the highest bidder, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, with Jason Statham and Agata Buzek.

**11.10 Film: Blitz.** (2011) An uncompromising cop with controversial violent methods is set on the trail of a serial killer who preys on police officers. Crime thriller, with Jason Statham.

**1.10** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** The Gadget Show. Jon tests a selection of curved TVs. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A cluttered B&B on the Norfolk coast. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00** The Voice UK **9.15 Film:** Transsiberian (2008) **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** Killer Magic **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** Family Guy **12.55** Bluestone 42 **1.25** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **2.20** Beaten by My Boyfriend **3.20** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **3.30** Killer Magic **4.00** Close

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Arena: Oooh Er, Missus! The Frankie Howerd Story **8.00** Shakespeare's Mother: The Secret Life of a Tudor Woman **9.00** Lost Cities of the Ancients **10.00** The Truth About Meteors **11.00** Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender – Director's Cut **12.25** Queen: The Legendary 1975 Concert **1.15** Mr Blue Sky: The Story of Jeff Lynne and ELO **2.15** Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park

**ITV2**

**12.45** Scorpion **1.35** You've Been Framed! **2.05** Mr Bean **3.15 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **5.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **7.10 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **9.00 Film:** Skyfall (2012) **11.55 Film:** Harold & Kumar Get the Munchies (2004) **1.40** Mom **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.45 Film:** Carry On Henry (1971) **1.35 Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **3.25 Film:** Carry On Loving (1970) **5.15 Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **7.05 Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **9.00** Carry On Forever **10.00 Film:** Carry On Girls (1973) **11.50 Film:** Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) **1.50** Wycliffe **2.45** On the Buses **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

**ITV4**

**6.30** Goodwood 73rd Members' Meeting **7.30** Counting Cars **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45 Film:** Boogeyman (2004) **2.35** Nitro Circus **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**1.00 Film:** The NeverEnding Story II: The Next Chapter (1991) **2.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.00** The Frozen Phenomenon **4.00** Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** My Sister's Keeper (2009) **10.10** The Inbetweeners **12.25** Channel 4's Comedy Gala **1.25** The 100 **2.20** Revenge **3.05** Rules of Engagement

**Film4**

**11.00** Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) **1.00** Ponyo (2008) **3.10** Clueless (1995) **5.05** The Iron Giant (1999) **6.45** The Eagle (2011) **9.00** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **11.25** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **1.35** Damien: Omen II (1978) **3.50** Close

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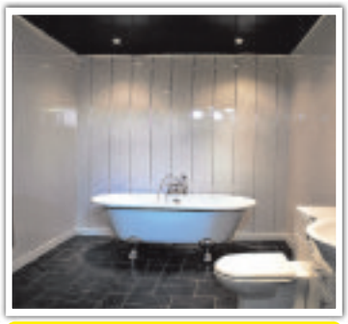

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## FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**

**Blade: Trinity, Channel 5, 11pm**

The fearless warrior's blood-sucking foes frame him for murder, forcing him to go on the run from the FBI while his enemies resurrect the first and most powerful of their kind – Dracula himself. Fantasy action thriller sequel, with Wesley Snipes and Dominic Purcell. (2004)

**TUESDAY**

**Carry On at Your Convenience, ITV, 11.10pm**

Production at toilet manufacturers WC Boggs is brought to a halt when an over-eager trade union representative calls a strike. However, worker unrest is quickly quelled by a jolly trip to the seaside. Comedy, starring Sid James. (1971)

**WEDNESDAY**

**Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.15pm**

Fact-based thriller telling the story of Martin McGartland, who was recruited as a police informant in 1980s Belfast and sent on a mission to infiltrate the IRA. He rose swiftly through the ranks, providing vital information to the British authorities. Once he was exposed, he was tortured and forced to go into hiding. Starring Jim Sturgess and Ben Kingsley. (2008)

Blade: Trinity, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

**THURSDAY**

**Stranger in an Amish Town, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A penniless stranger and his son turn up on the doorstep of three Amish sisters, who offer him a place to stay and a job as a handyman. The women's police officer niece is suspicious of the new arrival and tries to find out where he has come from. Romantic mystery, starring Sarah Lancaster. (2014)

**FRIDAY**

**First Blood, ITV, 10.40pm**

Vietnam veteran John Rambo is wrongfully arrested in a backwoods town and tested to the limits of his endurance by a brutal deputy. Rambo escapes from his cell and heads out to the woods, and with the forces of the law in hot pursuit he finally has the chance to fight them on his own terms. Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Brian Dennehy, Richard Crenna and David Caruso. (1982)

# Griff is back on track in his journey of discovery

Sometimes, the simplest approach is the best, so we'll leave Griff Rhys Jones himself to describe the premise of his new series.

He says: "Africa. There's nowhere else quite like it. A billion people speaking thousands of languages and a paradise of wild animals and natural wonders. I'm going to take it on in an unhurried manner aboard Africa's railways. It's the ideal way to meet its people and to experience its beauty."

And that, in a nutshell, is that.

During his trip, Griff will travel through Algeria, Tunisia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa – it's a 17,000-mile journey that begins in the Moroccan city of Marrakech.

"I love Morocco," reveals Griff. "I love the feeling of being on the cusp of Africa here. What could be more authentic, you see? What could be more Moroccan, than a cup of mint tea? Except that tea was introduced by the English when they took over Tangiers and it comes all the way from China.

"So, whenever you're in Africa, the idea that we are coming here on this huge journey to look for the 'real' Africa is nonsense. You never find the real Africa, what you find is the mix that created Africa from way back."

After stocking up on a few essential supplies at a colourful local marketplace, he boards a train for a seven-hour journey to Fes, and immediately sets about making friends in the hope that they will help him pass the time.

One of his fellow travellers is a salesman selling traditional Berber remedies. Griff bravely tries a stick that doubles as a toothbrush, but baulks at the idea of some brown paste used to treat worms.

Once in Fes, he hooks up with Abdul, who turns out to be arguably the city's most eccentric guide, and takes him on a tour of its medieval streets and medinas.

"This is a bit spooky isn't it?" says Griff, as he wanders around. "The whole city is like a maze which ends in dead ends and that was for defensive purposes. As you go along, you come to these huge gates and they could shut off whole quarters. The actual gates of the city of Fes were locked every night up until the 1960s."

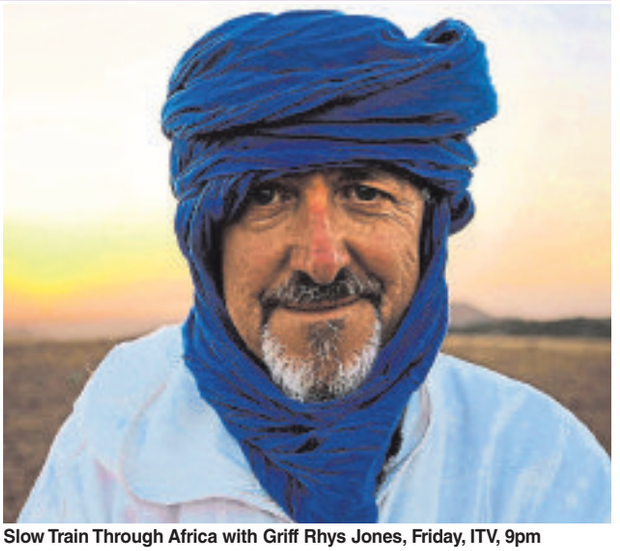
The next stage of his journey proves to be far more difficult. He needs to get to Algeria, but as the border between that nation and Morocco is currently closed, he must fly to Spain before getting another plane to the port of Oran.

But is the disjointed trip worth it?

"I was nervous about coming to Oran, I'll confess that," he reveals. "Because there has been a lot of trouble in Algeria and Oran itself has been a centre of contention ever since the 1960s.

"Basically the war of independence that cost a million lives pretty much started here when they raided the bank and they stole three million francs to pay for weapons."

Thankfully, the hospitable locals make Griff's concerns fade away before he prepares for next week's journey.



Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones, Friday, ITV, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**

**Travel Man: 48 Hours in Istanbul**

**Channel 4, 8.30pm**

We like travel. We like funny stuff. So this mix of travelogue and documentary presented by two of Channel 4's funniest guys is a winner, as this week Richard Ayoade is joined by comedian Adam Hills. They're hitting – as the title would suggest – Istanbul for the weekend, as Richard attempts to show Adam how to holiday with ruthless efficiency. Istanbul is the only city in the world to straddle two continents, and the men cross the River Bosphorus from Europe to Asia, comparing a private yacht tour and a low-price public ferry. Next, they take in an authentic Turkish shave at a local barber shop, and share an awkward moment a Turkish bath and massage parlour. Plus, they head to the Grand Bazaar market and have a go at haggling.

**Code of a Killer**

**ITV, 9pm**

You can run but you can't hide from David Threlfall at the moment. If you missed him in The Ark over on the Beeb last week, worry not, there's another chance to catch him in this new drama, for which he joins John Simm. It's based on the true story of Alec Jeffreys' (Simm) discovery of DNA fingerprinting and its first use by Detective Chief Superintendent David Baker (Threlfall) while on the hunt for a murderer after a school girl is killed. Two years later, a second youngster is killed and a teenager confesses – but insists he's innocent of the first crime. Certain that the same man was responsible for both incidents, Baker and Jeffreys work together to prove the theory.

**TUESDAY**

**Collectaholics**

**BBC2, 7pm**

We're used to seeing a very sun-kissed Jasmine Harman on the box checking out properties abroad, but tonight, and for the next eight weeks, she appears in something very different indeed. She joins antiques expert Mark Hill once again to help people catalogue, curate, clear out and showcase their item. The duo meet Margaret Tyler, who is obsessed with royal memorabilia and even has a whole room dedicated to Diana, Princess of Wales. The only problem is that space has become very tight, so it's Mark and Jasmine's job to convince her to value quality over quantity. They also help Chris Cornell itemise his collection of natural history items, and Mark visits Jack Konveburg and Jan Morgan's house to take a look at their collection of design items, dating back to the 1940s.

Ice Rink on the Estate, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

**WEDNESDAY**

**The Island with Bear Grylls**

**Channel 4, 9pm**

Reality TV has been around for long enough to risk becoming stale. New shows must, therefore, fight that tide by finding ever more ways to remain exciting. Channel 5 took it to new heights with 10,000 BC, which at times looked set to become the first TV show to inadvertently kill off its cast; The Island, as it returns for its second series, appears to be almost as perilous – but with the added advantage of having a lot more real-world context. Survival expert Bear Grylls imparts his knowledge to teams of men and women, before splitting them up and dropping them on separate Pacific islands.

**THURSDAY**

**Ice Rink on the Estate**

**ITV, 9pm**

New series. When they started their careers in their home city of Nottingham, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean received a grant from the council that allowed them to give up their jobs and focus on ice-skating. Now, the Olympic icons want to give something back, and their aim is to set up an ice rink in the heart of St Ann's estate and get the local teenagers involved in putting on a show. As training gets under way, the participants face their first performance – skating to Beethoven.

**FRIDAY**

**Sex and the Church**

**BBC2, 9pm**

New series. Historian Diarmaid MacCulloch explores how Christianity has shaped Western attitudes to sex, gender and sexuality throughout history. Travelling to Israel, Greece, Italy and Ireland, he begins by examining how the early Christians transformed intercourse from a biological necessity into a vice and from a pleasure into a sin.

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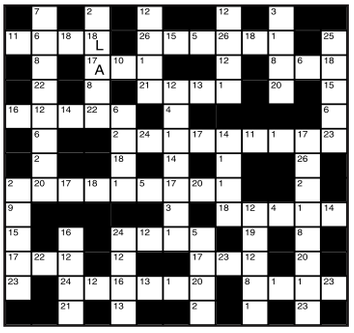
## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



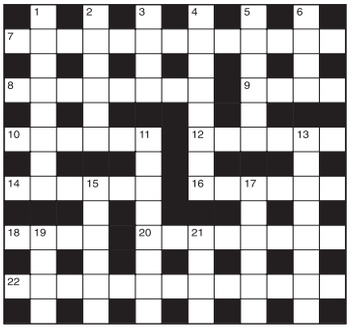
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 14 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 16 |
| 4 | 17 A |
| 5 | 18 L |
| 6 | 19 |
| 7 | 20 |
| 8 | 21 |
| 9 | 22 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 11 | 24 |
| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | V | Q | T | S | N | K | W | M | A | P | H | I |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| D | G | U | R | O | J | Z | B | C | Y | E | L | X |

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



**Cryptic Clues:**

**Across**

**7.** A system of detecting wireless site? (13)
**8.** See 6 Down
**9.** This will cut some of the potted geraniums (4)
**10.** French bitterness, I see! (6)
**12.** See 14 Across
**14 & 12 Ac.** One acts under what has become ingrained habit (6,6)
**16.** Alarmingly coiled, but far from fierce (6)
**18.** Featureless kind of race (4)
**20.** Showing lack of courtesy, I'm getting the stick about it (8)
**22.** Forcing one to adopt the faith - or just pretending (6,7)

**Down**

**1.** Railing is in poor condition in time (8)
**2.** Used for shooting one of Falstaff's followers (6)
**3.** Scheme to put fifty in a vessel (4)
**4.** Filmed but not exposed (8)
**5.** The way of a townsman (6)
**6 & 8Ac.** Kind of call for a runner (4-8)
**11.** Apples required for small fish (8)
**13.** Kind of clause for one of the family (8)
**15.** Get boat in a different way (6)
**17.** One dog - the miner has no end! (6)
**19.** Guide played by the star (4)
**21.** Noble support, we hear (4)

**Quick Clues:**

**Across**

**7.** Blameworthy (13)
**8.** Impetus (8)
**9.** Entry (4)
**10.** Coating (6)
**12.** Rush (6)
**14.** Current (6)
**16.** Chief (6)
**18.** Fashionable (4)
**20.** Wizard (8)
**22.** Understanding (13)

**Down**

**1.** Fragrant (8)
**2.** Mourn (6)
**3.** Closed (4)
**4.** Hostile (8)
**5.** Loiter (6)
**6.** Lump (4)
**11.** Recall (8)
**13.** Lift (8)
**15.** Get away (6)
**17.** Charge (6)
**19.** Band (4)
**21.** Vale (4)

## Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | | 6 |
| | 2 | 6 | 5 | | | | 7 | |
| 9 | | | 7 | | 6 | | | |
| 4 | 1 | | 9 | | | 6 | | |
| | | | | | | | 4 | |
| | 6 | 9 | | | 3 | | 5 | 1 |
| 2 | | | | | 5 | | | 7 |
| | 7 | | | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | |
| 8 | | 3 | 2 | | | | | |

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Gate; 8 Acute angle; 9 Director; 10 Pest; 12 Keeper; 14 Tartan; 15 Palace; 17 Betide; 18 Stye; 19 Well done; 21 Run at a loss; 22 Hits. Down: 2 Active part; 3 Ease; 4 Punter; 5 Secret; 6 Inspirit; 7 Felt; 11 Standing at; 13 Played an; 16 Enwrap; 17 Ballot; 18 Sort; 20 Dash. QUICK - Across: 1 Loss; 8 Positioned; 9 Handsome; 10 Same; 12 Revert; 14 Thirst; 15 Stroke; 17 Clever; 18 Glum; 19 Solitude; 21 Lugubrious; 22 Sign. Down: 2 Ornamental; 3 Sped; 4 Escort; 5 Street; 6 Conspire; 7 Idle; 11 Misleading; 13 Enormous; 16 Ensure; 17 Callow; 18 Gold; 20 Toss.

## Thinking space

## Quiz

1. What is the capital of Rhode Island?
2. Which philosopher wrote On Liberty?
3. Who wrote Moby-Dick in 1851?
4. Which star of the film Uncle Buck died in March 1994?
5. Of what is the Victoria Cross now made?
6. Who was the mother of Richard I and King John?
7. In which London park is the Serpentine?
8. What does the Russian word 'soviet' mean?
9. What is the first day of Lent called?
10. What land did the US buy from Russia in 1867?

**Last week's solutions:**

**Quiz:** 1 Philosophy; 2 Campaign for Real Ale 3 Colorado; 4 Jackal; 5 Anna Sewell; 6 Lufthansa; 7 Scotland; 8 Richard Cromwell; 9 Fingerprints; 10 Copper.

**Niner:** MISERABLY

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

**753483** gives a tree,
**871** gives another tree,
**6232329** gives fruit.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |

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# Mazda brings lot to party

## By Graham Breeze

**Mazda is recovering quickly after UK sales took a big hit because of the pound to yen exchange rate – and you can expect things to get even better now that the new Mazda2 is in showrooms.**

There's now a choice of 12 petrol and four dieses in a 16-strong line-up of the company's best-selling UK model and a five level grade structure of SE, SE-L, SE-L Nav, Sport and Sport Nav with prices from £11,995 to £17,395.

And with the brand's Skyactiv technology on board it's little wonder Mazda bosses are predicting a 24 percent sales growth this year against pretty flat industry sales.

The B-segment is a tough place to compete but using Skyactiv technology with its striking 'KODO – Soul of Motion' design philosophy, Mazda claim this model brings new levels of technological sophistication, driving pleasure and safety to the party.

At first glance there's no mistaking this latest addition to the Mazda family which has particularly attractive headlamp styling and a muscular stance.

But the outstanding features for me come in the safety department where Mazda has really outshone the rest of the competition in this sector.

There's an array of active safety systems which you don't normally get at this level, including Anti-lock Brakes (ABS), Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Electronic Brake Assist (EBA), Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), Traction Control System (TCS) and Emergency Stop Signalling (ESS).

You also get,Hill Hold Assist (HHA) and a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS as standard across the model range.

SE-L (90ps & 105ps Diesel), Sport, Sport Nav grades and the Sports Launch Edition model are further equipped with a Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS), and Smart City Brake Support (SCBS).

Operating between speeds of 2.5 and 18.5mph, SCBS automatically applies the brakes if the system detects an imminent frontal impact.

### Technology

There's also an optional Safety Pack on 115ps Sport Nav models offering even higher levels of driver assistance with High Beam Control (HBC), Blind Spot Monitoring (BSM) and Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) system, and an Active Driving Display.

Mazda has gone even further by Introducing my favourite technology to the model with the arrival of head-up display to the B-segment for the first time. That means you get to see your speed displayed on the windscreen, so there's no excuse for picking up tickets.

The cabin is a comfortable place to be with increased shoulder room up front, but it's still a little tight for six-footers in the back and the boot fails the golf clubs test unless you fold down the splitting rear seats.

There's now an easy to handle "multi-media commander" situated between the front seats which enables the driver to control the seven-inch touch screen display system.

**'Mazda might just be under-cooking their sales predictions. I think we will be seeing a lot of this car in the next 12 months.'**

DAB radio features for the first time in the Mazda2 and, in SE-L Nav and Sport Nav grades, a new navigation system offers improved search features and three years of free map updates.

Mazda's in-car connectivity system works with compatible iPhone and Android smartphones to access a variety of free mobile content via Aha™, a cloud platform-based service which features thousands of stations, personalised, location-based services and both Twitter and Facebook audio feeds.

MZD Connect also supports iPod®, MP3 and CD playback, terrestrial radio, SMS and readout functions.

The Skyactive 105PS Sports Diesel is my favourite from the range at £17,395 and producing only 89g/km of emissions.

On top of that you can reach 62mph in 10.1secs and get a top speed of 111mph and still achieve over 80mpg.

Mazda might just be under-cooking their sales predictions.

I think we will be seeing a lot of this car in the next 12 months.

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| 09 | SKODA FABIA 3TDi Estate AC, EW, CD £30 tax, 57,000 miles | £5495 |
| 09 | FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC AC, Alloys, HFS, SH, 47,000 miles | £5495 |
| 09 | KA ZETEC In Black, Alloys, AC, SH, 30 tax, 32,000 miles | £5295 |
| 58 | CORSA 1.4 DESIGN 5dr, Alloys, Half Leather, RCL, AC, 48,000 miles | £4995 |
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| 59 | AYGO BLUE 3-dr. AC, EW, CD, SH, £20 Road Tax, 20,000 miles | £4295 |
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| 06 | VECTRA 1.9 SRi CDTi Auto, Alloys, A/C, Sat Nav, SH, 63,000 miles | £3995 |
| 08 | CI URBAN MOVE 5-dr. RCL, EW, SH, £20 Tax | £3695 |
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## DRIVETIME

# New MG6 is set for launch

**MG is launching an improved new MG6 which will further boost the brand's remarkable revival.**

The new car, which will go on sale next month, comes as MG sales in the UK continue to increase rapidly, boosted by the opening of a wave of new dealerships across the country. Last year MG was the fastest growing automotive brand in Britain.

MG launched the original MG6 in 2011 but the 2015 new MG6 offers major improvements in every area of the car.

The 1.9-litre DTi-TECH diesel engine has been developed to give lower CO2 levels and improved mpg figures. Exact figures will be revealed at the car's launch.

Comprehensive updates have been made to the body styling of the car while it retains the driving dynamic qualities that won plaudits from drivers who voted the MG6 the Best Handling car in the 2014 Auto Express Driver Power Awards.

Interior upgrades and enhanced equipment levels are introduced on the new MG6 which will arguably have one of the best intelligent infotainment systems of any car in its class. A state-of-the-art navigation system will also set new standards.

Matthew Cheyne, MG's head of marketing, said: "This is a totally different car to the original MG6 with a host of new technologies and major advances in every area.

"We will reveal the full story and prices when the car is unveiled shortly. But the new MG6 is a big leap forward from the original car which has been the result of thousands of hours of dedicated work from our designers and engineers." Cheyne said that the new MG6 would have broad appeal to both retail and business customers. He added: "The MG6 was always a comfortable, roomy car and offered rewarding driving. But the New MG6 takes the car to a different level again with a host of great improvements and advances, most of which have never been seen before on an MG.

"With the MG3 selling really well, the new MG6 will give MG another great boost. Last year was a really significant year for MG in terms of sales performance, but 2015 is already shaping up to be a cracking year for MG."

Pictured: A hint of what the new MG6 will look like. The full picture is being kept under wraps until launch later this month.

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2010 10 **MEGANE DYNAMIQUE 1.6 COUPE** 3-Dr Burnt Orange alloy wheels aircon electrics only 29073 miles ..... £6,999
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2008 58 **SWIFT 1.5 GLX** 3-Dr in White alloys aircon real eye catcher only 45630 miles with history and privacy glass ..... £4,999

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2003 03 **CELICA 1.8 VVTI 3-Dr COUPE** aircon alloys rear spoiler lots of service histroy only 84000 miles ..... £2,999

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2011 61 **CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION** 3-Dr Red with black roof and Black alloys only 34000 miles 1 owner ..... £6,999
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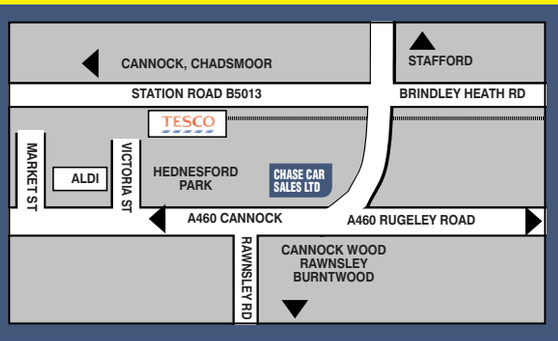

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# This estate from Skoda has a lot for the money

By Bill McCarthy

**Skoda is bargain basement no longer, but still a bargain nevertheless and underpinned by the quality of the VW group.**

So successful has the transformation of the Czech brand been, that it now challenges VW with a cheaper alternative that still feels of the highest quality.

There are many models, but the estate version of the Octavia is one of the best, offering practicality with a massive boot, excellent fuel economy, especially through the VW sourced engines and a solid build quality.

It offers the biggest boot space in its class, matching and shaming bigger cars.

It is also cheap to run for business users who will look keenly at the massive stowage space available with low CO2 emissions meaning.

There is also the four wheel-drive version tested here which adds to the practicality. It won't be tackling river crossings, but will prove sure-footed and stable in muddy or snowy conditions thanks to the extra grip and upgraded suspension at the rear.

The exterior design is hardly eye-popping, it has an unfussy functional look that will not offend, although it features neat light clusters front and back, with all models featuring alloys wheels.

Add roof rails and it looks smarter still and like many estates these days, no longer the ugly duckling compared to the saloon.

## Practical

The interior has a less-is-more simplicity, with a neat, practical layout which is intuitive and easy to use. High quality soft touch plastics and hard-wearing upholstered seats give the car a feeling of quality and solidity.

Seats are adjustable so you can get a decent driving position, ever for shorter people while all-round vision is good.

The best bit, of course, is the boot space, offering 610 litres of space with the rear seats in place, 1,740 litres with the rear bench folded, which can be done by releasing a single catch for the seats to fold flat.

A shopping net and cargo hooks will keep things stable in the cavernous space.

All models are well equipped with the mid-range SE tested here offering plenty: foglights, touchscreen infotainment screen, with CD player, Bluetooth, DAB digital radio four-spoke leather steering wheels, drive mode selection, dual zone climate control, USB and aux-in connection sockets,voice control for phone and navigation where specified.

## Powerful

There is a choice of petrol and diesel engines with the model here featuring a powerful, yet frugal two-litre diesel. It is plenty quick enough, but fuel economy is stunning with a claimed 57.6mpg with 124 g/km of CO2 making it cheap to run.

Put your foot down and the car will hit 60mph from a standing start in just 8.7 seconds, but take care, economy plummets. It is a superb engine, refined and quiet and performs admirably on urban road or motorways.

As an aid to economical driving the SE features Driving Mode Selection, with Normal, Eco, Sport and Individual settings. These change the throttle setting and steering set up. Select economy and with stop/start technology, you really can eke the fuel out.

For safety there are seven airbags: front, front side, curtain and driver's knee, plus driver fatigue sensor, hill hold control, plus traction and stability control programmes and automatic post collision braking system.

Starting at £15,745, it's a lot of car for the money. Practical and spacious and reasonably stylish, its hard to fault the Octavia Estate.

## TESTED

Skoda Octavia Estate SE 4x4 2.0TDI

Price: £22,715

Mechanical: 150PS, 1,968cc diesel engine driving all wheels via 6-speed manual gearbox

Max speed: 132mph

0-60mph: 8.7 seconds

Combined mpg: 57.6

Insurance group: 19E

CO2 emissions: 124g/km

BIK rating: 20%

Warranty: 3yrs/60,000 miles

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07/57 **Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate Auto 5dr,** Blue, 22,200 miles ..... £4,299
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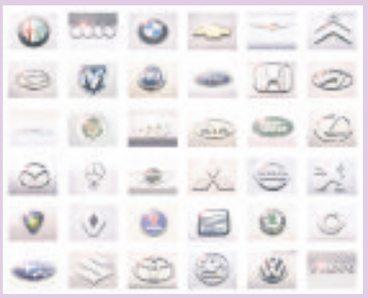

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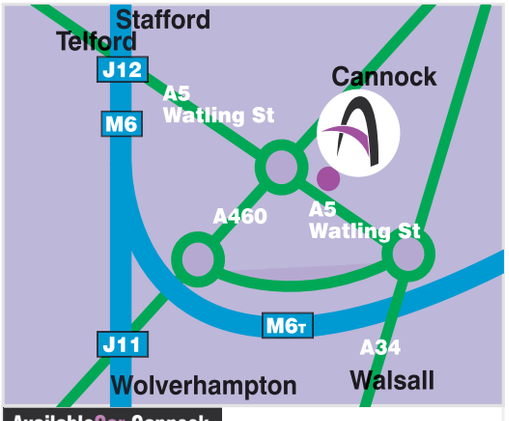


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DRIVETIME

# Brakes on the Chinese car invasion

**The predicted invasion of Chinese brands to Europe hasn't happened – but why has the Asian low-cost approach to motoring failed to take hold in the UK?**

China is already one of the largest car markets in the world and it's expanding at a faster rate than any other. This is great news for car makers looking to sell cars within China, but what about the country's domestic manufacturers looking beyond their own borders?

A few years ago, it looked like Chinese car makers were poised to take over the entire world, offering low-cost cars in a similar way to the Japanese in the 1970s and the South Koreans in the 1990s. But even allowing for the recession, China has not made the impact on European car sales that many thought would be inevitable by now.

There are a number of reasons why this invasion has not happened – and why it is unlikely to occur any time soon.

The main one cited by China's own car makers is there is huge demand at home and they need to satisfy this before looking to sell cars abroad. While this is true to some extent, as China's rapidly expanding middle classes look to owning a car as a way of demonstrating their new-found wealth and status, it's far from the whole answer.

While European and North American car companies have been investing money, time and technology in building cars in China for that market, Chinese firms have not been investing in creating cars for other regions but its own. Nowhere is this more obvious than areas such as safety and emissions.

As vehicle emissions in other developed countries are becoming ever-more stringent to tackle global warming and air quality, China is less concerned with this. It values its industrial and economic development more highly at present as it endeavours to catch up with the USA and Europe for the range and quality of cars it produces.

The same reasoning is behind China's domestic car models not being able to satisfy the safety standards demanded in Europe and the US. To sell a car in Europe, it must first be able to pass a number of strict crash test rules and come with standard ABS and ESP. These systems cost money to develop and install in a car, which would mean many of the cars currently on sale in China would be too expensive to compete on value in Europe.

There is one other reason why Chinese car makers are not dominating the market here. 90 per cent of new car sales in the UK are financed through a personal contract plan. You don't need a large lump sum and it allows drivers to choose a more expensive car than they might otherwise afford. So, why buy a lower quality, cheaper car from China when you can drive a more premium product for no more outlay?

Chinese car makers will make inroads into our car sales eventually, but it's unlikely they will create the huge changes the Japanese and Koreans managed. Not only have cars changed as a result of these shifts, car buyers have changed too, and that is the biggest challenge China's car makers face.

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# Open-topped elegance that is affordable

## By James Parker

**If you've ever owned an affordably priced convertible, then you'll know that cars of this kind come with one major problem: you can't comfortably fit adult passengers in the back over any real distance.**

That's because models of this sort are largely based on Focus-sized family hatchbacks that are compact to start with and become even more so at the rear once you have to find space for a bulky hood. Cabriolets based on larger, more prestigious designs do better, but they're expensive.

You'd think then, that there'd be a gap in the market here – and you'd be right. Here's the car that fills it – Vauxhall's Cascada.

From the moment you take a seat and set off in this car, it's clear that this is a luxury convertible first and foremost, rather than any kind of low-slung roadster. But that doesn't mean it can't be dynamically adept. Indeed it must be if Vauxhall's pretensions of tilting at the up-market German brands are to be credibly realised. That's why the spec sheet promises HiPerStrut suspension from the 170mph Insignia VXR. And the FlexRide adaptive damping system that does so much to make the brand's Astra VXR such a credibly competitive hot hatch.

Here though, this technology is there to dynamically improve a very different kind of car, over two tonnes in weight and lacking the kind of fixed roof that would normally be key to structural rigidity. It could have all produced a rather disastrous result, had this Cascada been simply a convertible spin-off from an ordinary Vauxhall hatch, as was its direct Astra Twin Top predecessor. But it isn't. This, in contrast, is the first time the brand has properly designed and purpose-built a opentopped car from scratch since the early 1930s. They've done the job properly.

### Scores

Under the bonnet, Vauxhall has wheeled out the best it has in terms of current engine technology, including an all-new 1.6- litre SIDI (or 'Spark Ignition Direct Injection') petrol unit that offers 170PS when mated to a 6-speed automatic gearbox. If that's not fast enough, you can also ask your dealer about a 200PS manual gearbox version. There's also an entry-level 140PS 1.4-litre petrol turbo unit and two 2.0 CDTi diesels, one with 165PS and a minority interest 195PS Bi-Turbo version.

The Cascada scores straight off the bat by looking the part. It's certainly quite a size, at over 4.7m long and over 1.8m wide. When the top's down, it has a very clean profile, with no roof-top cover or visible roll-over protection disturbing the car's silhouette behind the steeply-raked A-pillar.

At the wheel where you sit quite high up, the cabin offers a mixture of Vauxhall familiarity and some hand crafted detailing you might not associate with this blue collar brand. The belt butler for example that extends over your shoulder and hands you your belt as you take your seat. All of which leaves what is probably this car's defining feature, its back seat accommodation. Once in place, most adults should be quite comfortable and it's all a world away from similarly-priced compact convertibles where in most cases, the back of the front seat tends to sit virtually against the rear seat's cushion.

Looking at one of those Golf, Megane or Peugeot 308CC-based family hatchback-shaped convertibles? They're very nice, but it would surely be even better if you were able to stretch to something a little more up-market that would have proper room for two adults in the back – an Audi A5 Cabriolet or a Volvo C70 for example. Maybe even a convertible BMW 3 Series – though that's pricier again. If that's the position you're in, then the Cascada is a car you should try. The kind of smart, stylish looks and decent rear seat space you'd expect to have to pay £30,000 to £40,000 for, all at the kind of £24,000 to £30,000 budget.

All models get the powered roof, all-round power windows, alloy wheels, daytime running lights and air conditioning you'd expect from a modern £25,000 convertible and also include rear parking sensors, LED tail lights, sports front seats, cruise control, a leather covered steering wheel, a trip computer and a digital radio with USB and Aux-in connectivity. Plusher versions like this one get heated seats with leather trim, front foglamps and rain-sensitive wipers, plus auto headlamps that can dip themselves at night.

A larger car is inevitably a heavier car. So given that unlike its family hatchback-shaped cabriolet counterparts, this Cascada has proper room for four and weighs over two tonnes, you'd expect running costs to be higher. Which is not necessarily the case, thanks to features like a start/stop system fitted across the range which cuts the engine when you don't need it, stuck in traffic or waiting at the lights.

And the results? Well, take the 1.4T 140PS petrol variant, capable of 44.8mpg on the combined cycle and 148g/km of CO2. Other Cascada variants don't fare quite as well as that: the 1.6 SIDI petrol auto for example, manages 39.2mpg on the combined cycle and 168g/km of CO2. Then there are the diesel versions of this Vauxhall, with both 165 and 195PS versions of the 2.0 CDTi unit delivering 54.3mpg on the combined cycle and 138g/km of CO2.

These days, Vauxhall is a company with some genuinely desirable products in its portfolio. Here's one of them.

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14 Meriva 1.4 Techline, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 17" alloys, 2900 miles. Pepperdust £11999
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14 Zafira Tourer 1.4 Turbo Techline, Sat Nav, Alloys, Bluetooth, 3500 miles, White EX DEMO £16999
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## deaths

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT**
**CUSTOMER INFORMATION**

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

**BOWATER**
**Peter Joseph**

Passed away at Hawkesyard Priory Nursing Home, on March 25, aged 78 years.

Funeral Service will be held at St. Luke's Church, Cannock on April 9, at 11.00am.

You will be welcome to wear your teams football scarf.

Family flowers only.

**CARTWRIGHT**
**Mary Jane**

Passed away on March 22, 2015, aged 90 years.

Will be sadly missed by all Family and Friends.

Funeral Service will take place at St Mary's Catholic Church, Cannock on Friday, April 10, at 10.45am, followed by Cremation at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Macmillan Cancer Care, c/o

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

**CHALLINOR**
**Patricia**

Of Cannock, passed away after a long illness at her Daughters residence in Nottingham on March 29, 2015 aged 66 years.

A loving Mom, Sister, Aunty and Friend.

All Funeral details from FARAGHER MAGUIRE Family Funeral Directors Brindley House, 75, Broadhurst Green, Hednesford. Telephone 01543 879866.

**EVANS**
**Eric Alfred**

Sadly passed away on March 20, 2015, aged 80 years.

Eric will be sadly missed by all his loving Family.

The Funeral Service will take place on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at Stafford Crematorium, at 11am.

Family flowers only please by request, donations will be gratefully accepted for Cancer UK c/o Family.

Eric is now resting in a Private Chapel of Repose at Halliwell Funeral Service, Heath Hayes.

HALLIWELL
FUNERAL SERVICE
70 Hednesford Road
Heath Hayes
Cannock
WS12 3EA.
01543 459200.

**HALL**
**Baden John**
**(Jack)**

Passed away on March 24, 2015, aged 77 years.

The Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium, at 11.30am, on Tuesday, April 7.

Family flowers only by request.

Donations for Dementia UK may be forwarded to Funeral Directors.

JOHN SHORT & SON
3 High Street
Chasetown,
Burntwood,
WS7 3XE.
01543 686204.

**HANDLEY**
**Annie**
(Nancy)

In Loving memory of Annie,(Nancy) who passed away peacefully on March 22, 2015.

The Funeral Service will take place at St. Augustine's Church, Rugeley on Tuesday April 7, at 9.15am.

Then, 10.00am, Burial at Stile Cop, Rugeley.

Family flowers only, donations to The Alzheimer's Society.

We spent so many hours sharing laughs and tears. So many times we shared our joys and probably our fears.

But now that we are parted our memories will remain, and one day Mom, we have no doubt, we'll share a laugh again.

Love Sons Clive and Kevin, Daughter- in - Law Eve and Linda.

XXX

**HANDLEY**
**Nancy**
(Gran)

Thank you for giving us lovely memories that we will cherish forever.

Your home made cakes were the best.

We miss you very much Gran.

Lots of Love Lisa, and Darrell.

XXX

**HANDLEY**
**Annie**
(Nan)

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone.

For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

Our Love always with you.

Dave, Sarah, Lynn, Rob, Lauren, Zak, Harry, and Keira.

XXX

**HOWES**
**Dorothy**

Passed peacefully away at her home on March 24.

At her request no flowers, cards or donations and private cremation.

Sadly missed by Brother, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchild.

**PEDLEY**
**Elsie**

Of Bradford Street, Hednesford.

Passed away peacefully on March 18, aged 91 years.

Will be greatly missed by all her Family and Friends.

Funeral Service took place at Stafford Crematorium on Thursday, March 26.

Donations if desired for Cancer Research or The British Heart Foundation c/o.

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

**SARGEANT**
**Mary**

Passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 28, 2015 aged 84 years.

Sleep now Mary Dear.

Although I cannot see you, I feel your presence near.

I will hold you close in memory, 'til I cry my very last tear.

So sleep now darling with the Angels, and your golden heart let rest.

Although my heart is broken, I know God took the best.

Heart broken Husband Ray.

XXX

**Mom**

Mothers are a treasure, more than gold, arms open, ready to hold.

Now reunited with all your Family.

Sleep peacefully Mom, we miss you.

God bless

Love you John, Fortunate, and Esther.

XXX

**Mother**

Your life was full of loving deeds, forever thoughtful of our needs.

Today, tomorrow our whole lives through.

We will always love and cherish you.

Daughter Ann, Tom, and Family.

XXX

**Mom, Nan, Great Nan**

God will link the broken chain, as one by one we meet again.

In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered everyday.

Linda, Leanne, Karl, Michelle, Emma, Elouise and Lexi- Mae.

XXX

**STEWART**
**Wendy**

Died peacefully in her sleep.

Cremation to take place on April 9, at 3.30pm, at Stafford Crematorium. Afterwards, we will meet up at The Littleton, Huntington.

The Family would like to thank all Family, Friends, Neighbours and Medical Staff for all their help and support.

**TILL**
**David Thomas**

Of Penkridge, passed away peacefully at Ashcroft Hollow, on our Golden Wedding Anniversary, March 27, 2015 aged 75 years.

The devoted Husband of June, beloved Dad of Louise and Claire, cherished Grandad of Alice and Thomas, Father-in-law of Mark 1 and Mark 2, beloved Brother and Uncle.

Service will be held at St. Michael's Church, Penkridge on Monday, April 13. at 12 noon followed by Interment in the Churchyard.

No flowers by request.

Donations to either Katherine House Hospice or Compton Hospice c/o Funeral Directors.

The Funeral care has been entrusted to

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# FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WHITTLE**
**Frances**

Sadly passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at The Heathers Nursing Home, aged 88 years.

Much loved and missed by all her Family and Friends. Now reunited with Ken.

The Funeral Service is to be held on Friday, April 10, at 10.00am at St. Luke's Church, Cannock.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Dementia UK. All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
79 Church Street,
Cannock, WS11 1DW
01543 502322

**WIGGIN**
**Colin Richard**

Sadly passed away, March 22, aged 69.

Missed by his loving Family.

Funeral Service to be held at St Marks Church, Great Wyrley, on Thursday, April 9, at 2pm, followed by Wake at Great Wyrley Working Mens Club.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Midlands Air Ambulance.

## birthday remembrances

**LUCAS**
**Ray**
April 4.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday.

Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.

All our Love Wife Josie and Family.

XXX

## acknowledgements

**JOHNSON**
**Desmond**

Kathleen would like to thank everyone for their kind donations, amounting to £248.50, which are to be donated to Leukaemia Research in Desmond's memory.

**WILSON**
**David**
**(Dave)**

The Wife and Family of the late David, would like to thank Family, Friends, and Neighbours, for their messages of sympathy, kindness and support at this sad time.

Also, the generous donations of £320 to County Ambulance.

**MARSHMAN**
**Debbie**

Dennis, June and Chris would sincerely like to thank Family, Friends and Neighbours, for the messages of sympathy, that has helped them through this very sad time in their lives.

Also, for donations of £300 that will go to Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, a charity very close to their hearts.

Thank you to Rev. Richard Westwood for a lovely Service, and also to Marie and her team at Walsh undertakers.

Thank you to all Staff at Old Wyrley Hall for the buffet.

Once again, Thank you All.

XXX

**SARGEANT**
**Mary**

The Family would like to thank everyone for their cards and messages of sympathy.

Thanks also to, the Ambulance Service, Doctors and Nurses at New Cross. The Rev. D Milner, and to A.J. Sellmans for their respect and dignity shown to Mary.

God bless you all.

## thank you

**COOPER**
**Dora**
100th Birthday

I would like to thank my Friends, for all the flowers and gifts which I have received.

Thanks also, to Rugeley Market Traders, for the reception they gave me when I visited the market on the morning of my birthday.

It was a great surprise.

At our Family party at the Cedar Tree, Brereton, a raffle was held in aid of the Midland Air Ambulance Charity.

I am pleased to say this raised £550.

## birthdays

**JEVONS**
**David**
*Happy 50th Birthday David*
Love from Jayne and Jess.
XXX

## diamond anniversaries

**KNOWLES**

**Elsie and Jack**
*Congratulations on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary on April 2nd.*
*With Love and best wishes from Sisters Ann, Joan, Tony and Families.*
*Enjoy your day X X X*

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**Booters £3.50**
6.00am-2pm
Meat Van Required
**07538 842842**

### caravans / motorhomes

**FAMILY TOURING**

**ABBEY AVENTURA CARAVAN**
2007, 4 berth, very good condition, fixed bed, radio, porch awning, c/w motor mover.
£6,000 ono
07830 694349

**ABBEY CARAVAN**
2 berth, 12ft, 1999, full oven, fridge, screens/blinds, h/c water, shower and cassette toilet, blow air system. Awning, extra's. Excellent condition.
£1,650 ono.
07585 862077.

**ACE JUBILEE**
2003, very good condition, motor mover, 4-berth, CRIS Reg., with end bathroom, many extras including awning.
£4,500 o.n.o.
01922 497006/07761 977889.

**ACE RALLYMAN**
Ltd Edition, 2 berth, Reick mover, large porch awning, one owner, garaged, regularly serviced, full oven, blow air, shower, toilet various accessories, no smokers / pets. Worth a viewing.
£2,420 ovno.
07905 622974
01543 278382.

**BARGAIN**
**ATLAS MIRAGE SUPER STATIC CARAVAN**
32 X 12FT. 6-Berth.
Excellent condition.
Sighted in Mid Wales.
Decking and many extras included.
2015 Site fee's paid.
Viewing highly recommended.
£7,995.
Please call 07476 800083.

**BARGAIN**

**CHEAP 12FT WIDE CARAVAN,** 12 months season with FREE 2015 fees. Only 1 owner from new - very clean. New Bar and Grill now complete. £13,995. Call 07494 264396.

**HOLIDAY HOME**
On country estate with views of the Malvern Hills, 140 acre owner only park, wildlife, birds, fishing, walks, pet friendly, 52 week season.
£10,500.
07704 392028.

**NEW & USED CARAVANS** for sale. Sea view pitches available. Lots of Facilities for family. Caravans start from just £10,495 with funding available. Call 07494 264396.

**STATIC CARAVAN** WILLERBY GRANADA 32X12 2BED SITED AT SEARIVERS BORTH SY24 5JZ BARGAIN £6995 07462 343 698

**12ft CARAVAN** for Sale on 4 Star park, gym, sauna, 3 pools, 18's bar, 5 mins to beach, kids club. Site fees inc., on North Wales coast. Must see, £10,400. Call 01745 342 265.

**2 BED 2003 CARAVAN.** Move in price including ALL FEES for 2015. Great for first time buyers. Excellent park with 12 month season. Just £12,595. Call 07494 264396.

**3 BEDROOM STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE**
£10,995 including site fees for 2015 season.
SITED AT
TY MAWR HOLIDAY PARK
TOWYN, NORTH WALES.
Perfect for a large family, sleeps 8 people.
Fantastic live entertainment and facilities including indoor heated swimming pool with flume, multi-sports court, adventure playground, kids club and lots more.
Call 07946 350132

### caravans wanted

**All Caravans Wanted**
Any Age or Condition
*CASH * WAITING*
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

**STATIC CARAVANS WANTED**
Don't pay this year's site fees!
Quick decision 07851 576221

**WANTED CARAVAN**
Anything considered, can pick up asap.
07717 090817

### music shop

**LEAD GUITARIST** Wanted for critically acclaimed band, must be dedicated.
07505 984025.

### sports & leisure

**FreeAds**
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

### holidays

### caravan holidays

**TO LET**
Tywyn near Barmouth/Aberdovey
**LARGE SIX BERTH CARAVAN**
Seafront site, sandy beach, picturesque views, club and shop.
Enquiries tel: 07979 716398 or 01543 878367

**FAR FOREST NEAR BEWDLEY** 2 Bedroom static caravan. Shower toilet, club house, swimming pool forest walks. £5,500 07774715830

**WOLVERLEY SITED** holiday caravans. Picturesc setting only 1.5miles from Kidderminster, new club house under construction prices from £4,000 07774715830

### devon

**PAIGNTON**
**The Kingswinford**
**APRIL SPECIAL OFFER**
3 Nights B&B £69pp
3 nights B&B
2course EM. £95pp
3 Nights RO. £59pp
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 yards to beach and pier
Contractors Welcome
01803 558358
www.kingswinfordhotel.com

### north wales

**ROWEN HOLIDAY PARK** Barmouth. Quality lodges & caravans for hire/sale. 01341 242626. www.rowenpark.com

### self catering holidays

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

**WOODLANDS NEW QUAY, WALES**
Pet friendly CHALETS from £285 per week. Also Lodges
*Delightful wooded park Minutes from harbour and sandy beaches Gilfachreda, New Quay, Ceredigion, Wales, SA45 9ST*
Tel: 01545 580 239
www.woodlandsnewquay.co.uk
Email: sales@woodlandsnewquay.co.uk

**Barmouth Flat Overlooking Sea.** From April 4th onwards. For details call 01568 780939

**Double Glazed Static Caravan With Deck**

12ft, 6 Berth Static Caravan at Hoburne Devon Bay. Safe, Fun Family Park in Torbay. Great Value.
£13,995
01803 696276
07879 458642/ 07788893780

**Holiday homes for sale**
on quiet park near Tenbury Wells
www.wigleyorchard.co.uk
with double glazing, central heating and deck
Open for ten months/year
01885 410331 or 07968 701625
from £9,750

## mind, body & soul

### massage

**FULL BODY MASSAGE** £25 for 40 mins. Shower Facilities, Sunbeds £15 for 60 mins. 01902 782960.

## 3 Home & Services

### furniture

katharine house hospice
Reg charity number: 1011712
**Furniture not sold, why not donate it?**
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

**SUE RYDER CHARITY** Need quality furniture donated. Free local collection: 01543 578715 / 01902 713714

### household appliances

**FRIDGE FREEZER** in excellent condition, £90. Will deliver. 07444 260 244.

### in your garden

**Top Soil, Building Sand**
**Paving/Concrete Sand**
**Decorative Gravels**
**Delivered Bagged or Loose**
**01902 893226**

**A AND B CULTIVATED TURF** supplied or laying service £1.30 per roll 01922 866770 / 07787 813162

**SAND, TOPSOIL, DECORATIVE** gravels 11 Tonne direct loads at cheap rates. D. Gill Building & Garden Supplies 01922 452221/ 452266 7 days.

**SLABS** 450mm x 450mm Riven faced, only £1.68 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

### items for sale

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**ASH RECLAMATION** new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

**CHEAP BRICKS** £12 per 100 inc VAT, also red hand made brick, £28.90 per 100 inc VAT. Prices to clear. Ranton Building Supplies Limited, Cannock 01543 276006.

**CANNOCK EXCHANGE**
We buy & sell quality used goods:
Car audio, Air Rifles, TVs & Laptops, Bikes, Gold, Guitars & Amps, Group/Disco Gear etc. Try us! No Furniture.
186 Stafford Rd, Cannock, WS11 4AH
Open Tues to Sat 10am-6pm
01543 570990 Closed Sun & Mon

### items wanted

**ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce**
**CASH PAID TODAY**
**A GENUINE LADY BUYER**
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • All silver • Chinese items • Old Ivory. • Military items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
**ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING**
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID** for antiques also old fashioned furniture, leather winged arm chairs and Chesterfield settees 01902 454144 or 0121 526 3375.

**WANTED FOR CASH** three piece suites, up to £100 paid Call 01785 815925/ 07947 627142

## antiques

**ANTIQUES WANTED**
All Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins, Paintings, Gold & Silver Jewellery
*HOUSE CLEARANCE SERVICE*
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 35 years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

**Antiques & House Clearances Wanted**
Over 30 yrs Experience, Garages to large homes, Anything old or unusual, Antiques a Speciality Cash paid.
Discretion assured. Call:
01889 579714 07968 001318

### loans

**LOANSATHOME4U - Family Finance.**
Loans from £200 - £750.
**Representative 399.7% apr**
Weekly collections.
Reg office: Royal House, Solihull B91 3QQ.
0121 705 7777
www.loansathomes4u.co.uk
Compare the price of home collected and other cash loans available in your area
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Contact 01922 418593 / 07814 264154 / 0121 525 5156
Quote Ref:112

### t.v. / home entertainment

### service

**AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS**
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

### specialists at your service

**AB-Blinds**
Super 6
6 Child Safe Verticals Fitted from only £169
Call 0800 0347111
www.ab-blinds.co.uk

### aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**
*1 aerial into 2 rooms £90*
*1 aerial into 4 rooms £130*
*Work Guaranteed*
*Same Day Service*
01902 858191
01384 429166
VISA 01543 439095
01922 716029
MasterCard 07833 738857

### alarms/security

**PREMIER ALARMS**
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

### bathrooms

**JP Builders**
Over 20 years experience in bathrooms, plastering & tiling.
FREE QUOTES
07883 339818 or 01543 458664

### blinds

*Made-to-measure*
**BLINDS SALE**
UP TO **50% OFF**
*selected blinds, curtains & shutters*
MEASURING & FITTING INCLUDED
ROMANS • ROLLERS • VENETIANS • VERTICALS • CURTAINS SHUTTERS • AWNINGS • CONSERVATORY BLINDS
TO BOOK A FREE APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL 0800 916 6563
OR VISIT HILLARYS.CO.UK
HILLARYS
Selected items. T's & C's apply.

**Amanda for Blinds**
*Vertical Blind Deals*
from
3 for £99 | 5 for £159 | 7 for £179
Great Fabrics : Measured & Fitted
*Also Great Deals On..*
Wood Venetians : Rollers : Venetians
Romans & Made to Measure Curtains
TEL: 0845 66 7 4 179
www.amandaforblinds.co.uk

## builders

**D & T BUILDERS** All Building Work Undertaken. Free Quotes. 07516 751550 - 07463 849342

## building services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**. Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways. See us on 'Rated People'. Call 01902 579592 / 07837 994465

**P.FENLON BUILDERS** All aspects of building. Block paving, plastering, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 / 07790 286187.

**WALL N ROOF** Repairs 07847 764297, 01543 820098 http://www.wallnroof.co.uk/

## building supplies

**RECLAIMED BRICKS,** Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

## carpet & upholstery cleaning

**A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**
*OAP discount.* Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

## carpet fitters

**A CARPETS & VINYLS** supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598/07941 619694.

## driveways & patios

**CASTLE DRIVEWAYS** pattern imprinted concrete, driveways and patios. Block paving on all drives, re colour and re sealing. Free quotes. 01902 475313 or 07917 312985

## fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**
*SPECIAL OFFER*
10 Bays of quality fencing concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for £695.00
www.portwayfencing.com
83 Portway Rd, Wednesbury, WS10 7DZ
Office: 0121 531 5250
Mobile: 07866 137656

**Wednesfield Fencing and Gates.** Supply, fit and repairs. 25 years experience. Call 07541 919228

## gardening services

**Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services**
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

**GARDEN KINGS** All Garden work and maintenance, Fencing, Tree cutting, Turfing and much more. Call: Steve for free quote. 07774449900 / 01902 238653

## gas fitting

**D J Gas**
Servicing and installtion of boilers, cooker and fires.
Landlord Certs
Call Dan 07818 047772

## gates

**CARPENTRY**
Timber Gates made and fitted.
Any Sizes
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call John: 07958 576728 / 01902 861347

## handyman services

**DAVIES INSTALLATIONS** All aspects of building work, plumbing, roofing, decking, kitchen and bathroom fitting. Call 07793 747829

## house clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

## kitchen fitters

**THE KITCHEN FITTER**
- Over 15 years experience in kitchen fitting & project managing.
- Specialist in fitting all retail kitchens.
- Very competitive price.
- Quick quotes over the phone can be given if preferred.

CONTACT MATT ON 07881 654 757 or 01543 373 233

## landscaping

**OAKTREE GARDENING**
Covering all aspects of garden maintenance in Wolverhampton & Surrounding areas
Free Quote Call 07588 440363

## oven cleaning

**AAA OVEN CLEANING**, Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

## painters / decorators

**C.CAPEWELL PAINTING AND DECORATING**. OAP'S 20% off. 07874 814922 / 01902 632851.

**DECORACE** Painter & Decorator. Quality work at reasonable prices. OAP discounts. Free quotes 01902 635258 07876 135302

**LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR** City and guild qualified, local, reliable, affordable. 07916 399490.

**ROB PEERS DECORATING SERVICES.** City & Guilds. Free Quotes. Call 01902 683821 / 07946 375347.

## plastering

**MINT PLASTERING**
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
28 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

## plumbing & heating

**JBA Plumbing and heating** Combi boiler changes, bathrooms. 07809 741385 - 01922 495241

**K NASH & SON** CH, combi boiler & 7 rads £2,200. Boiler changes from £1,200. 7 year warranty available. 01902 790327 / 07973 721206.

**PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN** No job too small or large. Call Will for a quote on: 07521 411108.

## reclaimed materials

**CUNNINGHAM RECLAMATION** Buyers & sellers of reclaimed & new building materials. 01543 275299

## removals

**ABLE REMOVALS**
Local & Distance
Domestic & Commercial
Competitive Prices:
Moves from only £99
Call 07870 341089

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

**ALL REMOVALS** We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Call Keith on 07867 862227

**CALL DEAN!** Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN,** Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

**MAN AND VAN:** Local & distance work. Fully insurranced, Student moves/DIY stores etc. 7 days a week. Please call 07720 206339

## roofing

**CLIFF NICHOLLS**
Roofing & Scaffolding
Rubber Roofing
All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
35 years experience
Freephone (0800) 220 - 729

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**UPTHROWER ROOFING**
Rubber Roofing Centre
Unit 4 Ashmore Lake Way
Willenhall WV12 4LF
Stockists Of All Rubber Roofing Materials
Open To Trade and Public
Fitting Service Available
Firestone Rubbercover
25 Year Guarantee
01902 602808
07887 513305

## skip hire

**AAA SKIP HIRE** All sizes available, competitive prices. Call Now: 01922 711411 or 07831 105695

## tiling

**ALL TYPES OF TILING** Karndean & wet rooms supplied/fitted, fully insured. 07768 814501.

## upholstery

**MR B'S UPHOLSTERY**
Re-Upholstering of Sofas, Dining Furniture, Caravans, Car Retrims and more.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 509677
07738 851661

## 4 Pets & Animals

## equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

**LAURAS TACK BOX** Massive relocation SALE starts Saturday 28th March. Call now on: 07949 943933/ 01543 277688.

## guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

**AIRGUNS, SHOTGUNS,** antique guns, taxidermy and fishing memorabilia wanted. 07968 624202

## pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

## 5 Business & Farming

## business opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

## business directory

## business opportunities

**BROKE ? ... BORED?**
Brain stagnation setting in but can't take a job because of children?
*I have 2 kids, work from home, part-time and earn more money than most full time directors do!*
INTERESTED? 07808 211817

## commercial premises

**UNITS TO LET**
**1500sq ft and 2400sq ft , Brierley Hill town centre**
Good Rates.
Contact anytime and please leave message
**01746 710179.**

## training

**Paxium Limited**
Computer programming and website programming lessons available in Cannock.
£25 per hour
Please email enquiries to dave@paxium.co.uk

## 7 Jobs

## courses

**BILLY THOMAS**
DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
MINIBUS (D1)
1-2-1 TRAINING
INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs
01902 744726 / 07831 646601

**MTS** HGV training, Willenhall. Minibus, 7.5 tonne C1 & car & trailer 01902 866510 / 07807 035066

## full time - general

**Roadtech Cutting Services Ltd.**
Have vacancies for:
**GRAB DRIVERS (experienced)**
**SLOT CUTTERS & BACKFILLERS**
**(Experience preferred)**
**CIVILS OPERATIVES (experienced)**
Over 25's, must hold a cscs card & a full uk drivers license
Roadtech Cutting Services Ltd,
Unit 17, Zone 3, Burntwood Business Park,
Burntwood, Staffordshire, WS7 3FS
For an application form phone: 01543 466810

*KJB UK Limited require a*
**Senior Mac Operator/ Supervisor**
Pre-Press Workflow and Imposition Software knowledge is a must - preferably with Prinergy & Preps. Experience of XMPie, InSight and FTP software will be an advantage. The candidate should have good working knowledge of the Major Graphics Packages - InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop and Quark.
*Also required to work with Mac Mail, Excel, Word and Tharstern MIS. This is a great opportunity for a Senior Mac Operator to advance their skills into a Senior Supervisory role.*
*Please forward your CV to Jennie Turner HR Manager hr@kjbprint.co.uk*

**Starfish health and wellbeing**
**Full Time Data Inputter with Reception Duties**
**Salary Band: 2/3 (37.5 hrs per week). X 2**
**Location: Cannock/Stafford.**
Applicants must possess excellent organisational, and communication skills to work in this very fast paced environment. Advanced computer literacy skills & superb telephone manner are essential. Previous experience in customer service, data inputting and reception setting would be an advantage.
Duties include: General reception, first point of contact, data inputting, auditing, processing post, filing, etc.
**Any offer of employment will be made subject to satisfactory references and DBS checks.**
**The closing date for applications to be returned is by 5.00 p.m. 17th April 2015. Late applications will not be considered. Please do not send CVs**
**For an application form and further information contact Kate at: recruitment@starfishhealthandwellbeing.co.uk**
**Interviews will be held on 23rd/24th April 2015**

## building & construction

**BRICKLAYERS** required. Continuous work available in the Stafford area for qualified Bricklayers. Excellent rates of pay - paid weekly. For information contact Paul on 01782 814216.

## childcare

**NURSERY APPRENTICE** required. GCSE English & Maths, DBS checks required. Telephone ABC Nursery on 01543 877683.

## drivers

**OWNER DRIVERS WANTED** in all areasMust have your own vehicle. Variable hours local and distance. UK/ Europe, Escorts, Sprinter, 7.5 tonne, 18 tonne. Work awaiting for the above vehicles with excellent pay rates. To apply please call Lucy on 08700 349255 / 01922 412022 Or email: lucy@transcentral.co.uk

## electricians

**QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN** req to work within the spray booth industry Call George 07792 826277

## finance & accounting

**ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT** required for busy Estate & Lettings Agency in Cannock. Experience an advantage but training will be given. Salary £8.50ph for a 37.5hr week. Please see our website: marwoodhomes.com for more details. E-mail CV to jcooper@marwoodhomes.com

## hair & beauty

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** self employed beautician/hairdresser required for busy salon in Burntwood. Details call 01543 677560.

## motor trade

**EXPERIENCED HGV MECHANIC** Excellent rates of pay. Permanent Position. Cannock 01543 878966.

## nursing & carers

**NIGHT NURSE RMN/ RGN**
required for a 15 - 20 bedded dementia Nursing Unit at Hornegarth House Care Home.
Excellent rates of pay.
Full and part time hours available.
**Please contact either Kerry Craddock (Home Manager) or Anne Smith (Administrator) on 01902 701702**

**Westgate Driver Training**
*Delivering High Quality Driver Training For Over 40 Years*

- 1-1 Gold Standard tuition
- LGV / PCV Training
- CPC Courses
- Free Assessments
- Driver Medicals
- Caravan & Horse Box Tuition available

**Tel: 01922 455514**
www.westgatedrivertraining.co.uk/

**ctt**
SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE
*"QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS"*
FREE ASSESSMENTS • FREE THEORY TEST TRAINING
HGV, PCV, ALL LICENCE CATEGORIES.
DRIVER CPC COURSES &
TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT COURSES
CALL FOR A BROCHURE OR POP IN AND SEE US
01902 312800
www.hgvdrivertraining.co.uk

## office & secretarial

**ROWLEY HOUSE NURSING HOME**
require
**PAYROLL/ ADMINISTRATOR**
Must be competent with Sage Payroll 50, Microsoft Word and Excel.
Excellent rates.
**Apply Nina Marchewka 01785 255279**

## 9 Local Information

## public & legal notices

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**
J & D TRANSPORT LTD
Of
Unit 12, Boston Industrial Estate, Power Station Road, Rugeley, WS15 2HS
Is applying to change an existing licence as follows
To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at
Unit 12, Boston Industrial Estate, Power Station Road, Rugeley, WS15 2HS
Owners or occupiers of the land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Central Licensing Office, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

## 10 Personals

## personal

**Angels**
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Cinema Now Open
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

## general

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**SELLING YOUR CAR?**
We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
**£19.50 for 6 nights**
**Plus**
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

**THE COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PROPOSALS**
Cannock Chase Council

**Major Application**
**CH/15/0102**
**Unit 12, Conduit Road, Norton Canes, Cannock**
Refurbishment of existing warehouse unit (B8) and construction of 5no. industrial units (B2).

**Telecommunications Application**
**CH/15/0106**
Base Station, Car Park, Block 1, Cannock Chase Enterprise Centre, Walkers Rise, Hednesford, Cannock
Removal and replacement of the existing 15m high monopole with 3no. antennas for a new 20m high monopole with 6no. antennas, 1no. 300mm dish and 1 no. FTTA box.

All applications may be inspected at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley

The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments or representations about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG or by emailing to developmentcontrol@cannockchasedc.gov.uk by 23/04/2015 Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

**Disposal of Public Open Space Land between 19-21 The Shrubbery Rugeley.**
Cannock Chase Council

In accordance with Section 123 (2a) of the Local Government Act 1972 NOTICE IS GIVEN that Cannock Chase District Council is considering the disposal of open space between 19-21 The Shrubbery, Rugeley.

A plan identifying the areas of land concerned is available for inspection at the Civic Centre offices, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Any person wishing to comment on/object to the disposal should do so in writing addressed to:

**Head of Economic Development**
**Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock WS11 1BG**
**or email propertyservices@cannockchasedc.gov.uk**
**to be received by Friday 10th April 2015**

**www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk**

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# 6 Property

## accommodation to let

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**BEDSITS TO LET** Single person only. Rugeley and Hednesford. Over 30's. 07932 904898.

**ONE BED FLAT** Willenhall Town Centre. £90pw. Deposit required. No texts. 07976 781003.

**ONE BED** large self contained flat, Hednesford, fully CH. 07909 775843.

**SMALL ONE** bed ground floor flat, fully decorated, situated in a mature low rise block for over 50's. £313.21pcm. Please contact Amanda Banks 01922 720790.

**THREE BED** house Wednesbury, Darlaston, DG, CH, back garden. £100 p/w. Neg. 07448 505750.

**THREE BED** spacious semi det house, Hednesford, off road parking, GCH, DG, no DSS / smokers suit Family, refs req plus dep £600pcm 07940 497266 / 01785 822376.

**TWO BED TERRACE HOUSE**, Walsall, WS5 4SD. CH, DG, parking, £110pw. 07970 848731.

**WALSALL**nr Town Centre. Rooms to let in shared house, £70 all inc. Fully furnished. 07825 581676.

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# 8 Motoring

## cars over £1500

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**FORD FOCUS** 1.6 TDCi, 5dr, 2005 diesel 100,000 miles, silver, FSH, cambelt, newer shape, very good condition, £2,000 07522 475039.

**JAGUAR 3 LITRE** 53 reg, petrol, auto, leather interior. Fully loaded, long MoT, £1,650 ono. 0121 531 5409 or 07972 859 856.

**JAGUAR S TYPE** 3.0 V6, 03 reg, 12 months MoT, seafrost Silver, cream leather, FSH, 6 speed automatic, £2,000. 07949 776824.

**JAGUAR X-TYPE** 01 reg, automatic, AWD, 3.0 V6, 27,000 miles, garaged from news, red, leather interior, still smells new and looks it. **£2,500. 01543 375362.**

**MINI COOPER** 54 reg, racing green, 98,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH, very good condition, bargain £2,295. 07503 670510.

**PEUGEOT 206** 07 plate, Look 1.4, metallic grey, a/c, c/locking, MoT Sept 15, 52,824mls. Good reliable vehicle. £1,900. 01785 663038.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE** 2004, 1.6 5dr, petrol, black, 79,000 miles, very good condition, reliable, £1,800 ono. 07799 774917.

**VW LUPO** silver, 1.0, 2002 plate, 49,000 miles, full MoT, with extras, cheap tax, £1,800. 07792 329997. For photos sue609@hotmail.co.uk

## cars under £1500

**FIAT STILO 1.9TDi**, 2005, 6 months MoT, £750 ono. Telephone 07836 568903.

**FORD KA**, 02 reg, blue, 12 months MoT, nice, clean car, 2 x keys, 2 owners from new, ideal 1st car. £550 ono. 07976 293994.

**FORD KA COLLECTION** 2001, 99,000 Miles, Green, electric windows, air bag, air con, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, tax, Stereo, CD **£450 ono 01543 506532**

**HYUNDAI SONATA** 2.0 CDX Saloon, 4dr, 03, petrol, 43k miles, auto, met blue, MoT, alarm, CL, alloys, lovely condition, £995 ono. 01889 584018

**PEUGEOT 206 1.4.** 3-door, 2004. £1,195. o.n.o. Telephone 07444 072591.

**RENAULT CLIO** 2004, 1.2, black, full MoT, excellent condition, low mileage, economical, £1050. 07565 857723 or 01922 400986.

**SKODA FABIA** saloon, 2002, silver, 67,000 miles, 12 months MoT, very tidy car, new car forces sale, £650 ono. 01543 428509.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8** petrol, 55 Reg., 5Dr hatch, MoT Sept, very good runner, 115k, no service history, £1,400ono. 07740 708395.

**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA** DTi, Elegance, 102k miles, 12 months MoT, tow bar fitted, excellent condition, £1,250 ono. 07592 863227.

**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 5** 2005, 193,000 Miles,silver GT TDI usual refinements Gear box needs attention 11 months mot service history 2013. 5 dr hence price **£1,450.00 07874870104**

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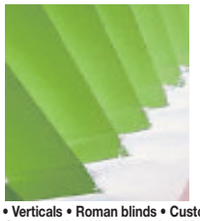

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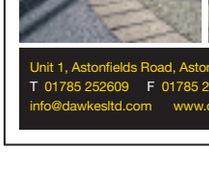
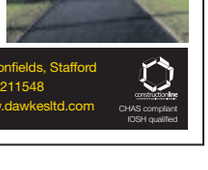

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# Swimming champ Ellie now has to pace herself

WALSALL'S four-time Paralympic champion Ellie Simmonds admits she has had to rein herself in as the years take their toll – but she is keen to continue swimming for the long term.

Simmonds has been named in an 18-strong Great Britain squad for the IPC World Championships, which take place in Glasgow's Tollcross pool from July 13-19. The 20-year-old hopes to take part in five events – the freestyle, the 100m breaststroke and the 200m individual medley – but she would rather do more.

Simmonds, who will be competing in her fourth World Championships, said: "It's quite a busy schedule but it's a seven-day competition so I will get a few days off where I can relax. But it's great to be able to do five and have the variety. I think I'd be bored just doing one event so it's nice to have a variety.

"They are all totally different so it's exciting. I'm a lot older now so my body tires out more. I'm more fatigued.

"At 13 you are just a kid and you've got so much energy that you can do anything. With five events, I can fully focus on them.

"I'm 20 now and I have to see the physio more, my muscles tire out, I get more stiff.

"It's a shame but it comes with age. I made my first World Championships team at 12.

"We have legends on the team like Sascha Kindred, who has been on the team for 20 years. He has been to loads of World Championships. I will take each year as it comes and see how it goes. I would like to go to Rio and Tokyo (Olympics), that would be great."

# Burntwood lack cutting edge

**Newcastle (Staffs) 38 Burntwood 10**
**Midlands 3 West North**

FOR all their industry, possession and territory, particularly in the second half, Burntwood lacked the cutting edge to turn promising attacks into points. The hosts on the other hand, had more spark and pace about them when they had possession to run in six tries compared to Burntwood's two.

Newcastle were quickly out of the blocks to go 12 points up after just six minutes.

Burntwood needed the next score to stay in contention and it came when Tom O'Brien slipped a pass to Holt for a try.

Promising attacks via Luke Rookyard, Josh Canning and Holt all ended in turnovers or infringements and then to make matters worse the Newcastle scrum half shot through a gap on halfway to race in for a converted try.

On the hour mark, they managed to control a catch and drive all the way to the try line for Graham Shelley to touch down.

This score was almost immediately cancelled out when Newcastle collected the restart kick to send the left winger on a crossfield run. He found the scrum half and his darting run was finished off by a support player for the fifth try.

Newcastle completed their tally when the scrum half escaped in midfield to run round for a converted try under the posts two minutes from the end. On Sunday morning a Burntwood XV welcomed Hamburg Exiles to The Sportsway. The home side won 50-17 but the biggest cheers were for the Exiles' three second half tries, the tourists having trailed 29-0 at half time.

As the tourists worked off the previous day's excesses in the second half they ran in three tries and added a conversion.

Burntwood have one league game left to play which is at home to Uttoxeter on April 11. The only action scheduled for this Saturday is a 3rd XV match away to Handsworth 3rds. The colts go off on Easter tour to Rotterdam to play two fixtures.

# Title hopes boosted by two goals at the death

**Wyrley Rangers 2 Darlaston Tn 3**

DARLASTON Town (1874) grabbed a dramatic win over Wyrley, snatching two late goals to give them the win and boost their West Midlands League Division Two title hopes.

The visitors looked set to be heading for defeat as they trailed 2-1 with just a minute of the game left, but two late strikes saw them secure a smash and grab success.

Darlaston opened quite brightly but were then rocked when Wyrley took the lead after 12 minutes of play, the goal coming through the impressive Hayden Hughes in their first attack of the game.

The title hopefuls struggled to get into top gear after the break but finally levelled on 70 minutes when the division's top scorer Mark Swann, headed home from a Lucas Hough free kick which put them back in the running.

A lack of concentration by the Darlaston side two minutes later saw Hughes net a deserved second goal for the home side who kept the lead until the final stages of the game.

Against the run of play Darlaston looked as though they had snatched an undeserved draw in the 89th minute with their best move of the game when Sam Giles, Swann and John Reeves combined for the latter to tap home the ball at the far post.

But that was not the end of the action as somehow Darlaston snatched victory from the jaws of defeat when Giles smashed home a last-minute penalty after Josh Bradley handled in the penalty area and was shown the red card.

# Riders scramble through the mud

**AROUND 150 racers gathered near Penkridge for Cannock Motorcycle Club to compete in group meetings across all age ranges.**

Riders, including children as young as nine up to expert adults, competed with more 250 people watching from the sidelines.

Other groups included two competitions of juniors, MX1 and MX2 seniors and two expert classes.

Cannock also played host to the first rounds of the AMCA sidecar championships, won by Simon Bradford. Darren Murray won the Seniors MX1, while Sean Wainwright topped the Expert MX1 table.

## Atrocious

Ryan Manley was the winner in the inter-junior class, while Leighton Legge was champion in the Group A Juniors competition.

Cannock Motorcycle Club chairman Phil Bailey said: "It was a good day. It was well supported. There were no incidents to report. Although the weather was atrocious, the track held up well and we had very favourable reports from racers."

The next group meet at the club's track at Lower Drayton Farm, off the A449 just north of Penkridge, takes place on April 26.

International competitions, including ladies for the first time in the UK, will take place on July 26. For more information on the club, contact Bailey on 07967 301965 or vice-chairman Mick Penn 07956 320338.

Competitors race along two-by-two in the Cannock Motorcycle Club's sidecar championship

Sidecar racers churn up the mud at the motocross event on Sunday

Riders battling for position at the muddy motorcross

# Serving up free tennis for young

YOUNGSTERS are being encouraged to pick up a racket and play tennis as Cheslyn Hay Tennis Club celebrates National Tennis Month.

National Tennis Month 2015 aims to give more than 15,000 children across the country a first experience of tennis.

As part of the month, Cheslyn Hay is hosting free tennis sessions throughout April. These are organised every Monday and Wednesday (5.45-6.45pm for U8s and U11s, 6.45-8pm for U14s & U18s) and Saturday (10-11am U14s and U18s, 11am-noon for U8s and U11s).

To book your free tennis session phone Chris Perrin on 07969 829318 or email cheslynhaytennis@live.com . For more information on National Tennis Month visit cheslynhaytennis.weebly.com

# Evans has a future says boss Jackett

LEE Evans has been told he still has a bright future with Wolves despite his lengthy exile, according to boss Kenny Jackett.

The 20-year-old midfielder hasn't figured in the last 10 games and hasn't even made the final 18 in five of those.

Evans was lectured by assistant head coach Joe Gallen and head of football development Kevin Thelwell after a tweet criticising his absence from the squad for the 5-0 win against Rotherham appeared on Evans's brother Danny's Twitter account.

Head coach Jackett admits Evans has dropped to fourth choice central midfielder behind Kevin McDonald, Jack Price and Dave Edwards.

"He has to keep working and improving," said Jackett.


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# Saddlers will keep Hiwula until end of the season

WALSALL are poised to keep on-loan Manchester City striker Jordy Hiwula for the rest of the season.

The Saddlers have already opened talks with the reigning Premier League champions and are hopeful of completing a deal before Hiwula's current loan expires on April 6.

The 20-year-old has scored four goals in 10 League One appearances for Dean Smith's side since moving from the Etihad Stadium in February.

He has provided vital back-up for leading scorer Tom Bradshaw, who has been beset by hamstring problems.

Manager Smith said: "Tom has had a few niggles this season and he has missed a few games, which makes scoring the number of goals he has even more impressive.

### Belief

"But Jordy has done really well since he came in. He came here off the back of a loan spell with Yeovil that didn't go as well as he would have liked.

"But since he joined us he has really found his feet and done a great job for us.

"He is a young lad and it was just a case of him finding a team and a club where he could play and score."

Hiwula's youth loan is not subject to the 93-day maximum emergency period, so he can remain for the rest of the season.

Meanwhile, Smith will consider Michael Cain's future at the end of the season.

The on-loan midfielder is out of contract with Leicester in the summer.

# Cannock close in on promotion

**Rugeley Firsts 7 Cannock Firsts 26**

CANNOCK made the short trip to local rivals Rugeley knowing a BP win would send them closer to the craved promotion.

Only 30 seconds in and Scott Pedley put the eventual man-of-the-match Gareth Ley through a gap and only a snatch tackle at the last prevented an early score.

Pedley was lacking any real space on the tight pitch but changed tactic well with some cheeky chips to the corner. It was one of these that created the first score. A kick over and great chasing from Iain Whitmell, Brad Stanaway and Stephen Frost made the otherwise fantastic nine of Rugeley panic. He managed to give it to their back row who ran straight into Scott Lathe and Ley. Lathe stole possession and the ball went wide. Skipper Jon Freeman finished the move off by smashing through three tackles to make it 0-7.

Joe Brookes ran a superb line and smashed through. Brad Stanaway in support who found Frost again who finished off under the posts – 0-14.

A kick over seemed to confuse the Lions and after Pedley failed to kick clear, Blake picked up offside and the ref awarded the penalty try – 7-14.

Freeman kept his head and crashed over to make it 7-21. Cannock maintained the pressure and the fast-growing Blake crashed over for the all-important BP try, 7-26. The seconds travelled to Warley and ran out 14-52 winners.

**Cannock Lionesses 5 Longton Ladies 12**

Longton travelled to the Morgan Ground and took the spoils as the elements played their part.

A blustery and at times torrential warm up put the team in good spirits as they looked to pick up where they left off against Essington several weeks ago.

But with the team playing up the slope and in to the wind, they found it hard to gain territory. A brave effort from all involved in muddy and windy conditions.

# Jackett: we didn't give Sako deal to get out

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett admitted they have never discussed a get-out clause with Bakary Sako – as Albion look set to target him again.

Ten years ago, Wolves persuaded Joleon Lescott to sign a new deal with a gentleman's agreement that he could leave 12 months later if the club weren't promoted and a Premier League club came in for him. Lescott was sold to Everton for £5m plus a £2m sell-on when he was transferred to Manchester City in 2009.

But the level of Sako's wages and the club's finances – around £25,000-a-week – effectively prevent any chance of a repeat scenario. The 26-year-old Mali international earns way more than any other Wolves player apart from Kevin Doyle after they slashed the wage bill following the double relegation.

Albion, who were one of three clubs that had bids of around £2m rejected in January, could easily trump his current salary.

Jackett indicated the idea of a new deal with a clause was a non-starter. "There's been no discussion about a new contract with any type of clause in," said the boss. "From the club's point of view, I don't think that would have been beneficial to us."

The Baggies look like returning for the winger this summer when Sako, who arrived from St Etienne in 2012, is out of contract and available on a free transfer.

But Jackett believes such is the bond between Sako, the fans and the club that he could still remain at Wolves beyond June 30.

"I think Wolves will be an option in whatever division," said Jackett.

# Cap that! Ex-Pitman in line for Euro 2016

**BORN in Wolverhampton, he learned his footballing trade on the books at Albion but it was down the leagues at Hednesford Town that Ashley Williams first came to notice.**

And from the heartbreak of his release from the Hawthorns as a teenager, Williams is now on the brink of leading Wales to Euro 2016, a feat he says would be 'a dream come true'.

Williams earned his 50th cap in their vital 3-0 win in Israel on Saturday and insists he would not change a thing about his footballing journey from non-league to Premier League.

Williams celebrates victory over Israel

Victory in Tel Aviv saw Wales leapfrog their opponents in Group B meaning that they now occupy top spot. And with Israel losing to group favourites Belgium 1-0 on Tuesday Wales' clash with the Belgian's in Cardiff this June could decide who tops the group.

Under Chris Coleman, The Dragons have their best chance of reaching a major competition since the 1958 World Cup – which they qualified for by default. And Williams – captain at Swansea City – says their current success has been down to a lot of hard work put in over a number of years.

"This is the best position Wales have ever been in and we have all worked really hard to get into this position," said Williams.

And Williams believes that the current Welsh squad's achievements would surpass that of the '58 team if they were to reach Paris for Euro 2016 because it would be the first time Wales have successfully negotiated a qualifying campaign.

"It would be the biggest achievement for Wales because they qualified before by default so this would be the first time on merit," said Wales' skipper.

Williams is a far cry from the 16-year-old who was deemed not good enough to earn a scholarship at Albion.

# Rampant Scholars' six of the best

Sheffield's Jake Eastwood is beaten by Paul Sullivan's deflected shot for the opening goal

**Sheffield FC 2 Chasetown 6**

CHASETOWN made loan striker Paul Sullivan skipper for his last game of his spell and he duly notched twice to take his tally to 12 goals in 12 games.

Sheffield missed a couple of sitters early on and were made to pay when Sullivan opened the scoring in the 19th minute with a shot took a deflection off a defender and looped over the head of goalkeeper Jake Eastwood. Sheffield deservedly levelled four minutes later through James Gregory.

But the visitors regained the lead against the run of play as Nathan Waite nipped in to finish.

Marcus Law's men were dominant after the break and Sullivan added his second with a low drilled shot and Waite smashed a shot beyond Eastwood at his near post for his 20th goal of the season.

Substitute Liam Bryan reduced the deficit but, it wasn't long before a long drop kick from John Bateman had Jamie Hadfield struggling under pressure from substitute Nick Turton and he diverted the ball past his own goalkeeper.

Richard Davies wrapped up the scoring – the first time Chasetown have scored six or more away from home since September 2009.

# Phoenix are burned up by Alma FC

**Lichfield & Walsall District Football League**

**League One**

**Alma FC 7 Walsall Phoenix 2;**
**Erdington Star 1 Boney Hay 0;**
**Saddlers Arms 4 Pelsall V Colts 7**

**League Two**

**B'wood Star 1 Duke of W'ton 1;**
**Eximius Warriors 4 Dog FC 3;**
**Trent Valley Rov 2 Oak Park 2**

**League Three**

**Scales FC 3 Wych elm FC 2**

**DFL League Trophy - semi-final**

**Q-Bar 2 Dr Johnson 1**

**H.Boston Cup - semi-final**

**B'w'd T'n Rs 3 Gr'n Rock Tav 2 aet**
**Queens Head 5 AFC Coll'gwood 0**

**Glen Skett Cup - semi-final**

**G S Rockets 5 ASP Victoria 3 aet**

# Sherwood is targeting top young talent

VILLA manager Tim Sherwood has reportedly targeted summer moves for a number of young English players excelling in the Championship.

Leeds United duo Sam Byram and Lewis Cook and Ipswich Town pair Tyrone Mings and Ted Bishop are four of the players to have caught Sherwood's eye, according to reports. All four have played key roles for their clubs this season and are all no older than 22.

Byram has been a Leeds regular since 2012 and made more than 100 appearances for the Yorkshire side.

Meanwhile, American billionaire Randy Lerner is poised to complete the sale of Aston Villa to a UK-based group for £150 million, according to reports.

The Villa owner has been trying to sell club since last May, and recently dropped his asking price to £150m.


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# Sport

## It's muddy hell as riders battle on

Page 98

## Ex-Pitman star has Euros hope

Page 99

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# Games running out as Hayes fear drop

**Heath Hayes 0 Tipton 2**

Football

THIS bottom of the table encounter was always likely to be a tense affair and it was the basement side who gained the precious points. But games are rapidly running out for both sides to preserve their Midland League Premier Division status.

The strong westerly wind from the outset was clearly going to be a telling factor and, winning the toss, the visitors chose to employ its advantage from the kick-off.

The opening exchanges saw Kalum Evitts controversially given offside as he bore down on the home goal.

Shortly afterwards, with Tipton making all the running, Lewis Wright's curling drive cannoned off the crossbar with keeper Mark Wiggins well beaten

Gurjit Singh created the chance for Tipton to nose in front in the ninth minute. He created sufficient space to whip a low cross inside the home side's far post, with the ball being touched home by Sean Pugh.

Hayes began to construct some good play of their own and on 16 minutes a splendid ball from Joe McNulty pierced the Tipton defence, but the danger was snuffed out by Lucan Spittle who then headed clear Charlie Ware's free-kick and turned aside a goalbound Chris Deakin header.

Deakin spurned a glorious chance to pull Hayes level as he fired wide. With the home side still very much in contention it took a perfectly timed tackle by George Williams to halt McNulty.

Heath Hayes continued to press after the break but found in tough to crack a resilient Tipton defence.

The hosts threatened again with Deakin's surge into the Tipton penalty area halted by Williams. Tipton settled the game three minutes from time when Pugh raced clear and slotted past Wiggins.

# Bannister at the double for Khalsa

**Haughmond 2 Sporting Khalsa 3**

FOR the second time in four days, Khalsa stuttered against Shropshire opponents before ultimately triumphing.

Khalsa now proudly sit 15 points clear at the top of the West Midlands Regional League with two games in hand.

It was the home side who started the brighter, a fine pass by Dean Richards to Tom Hewitt on five minutes ending with a shot past the right-hand post of Khalsa keeper James Pemberton.

Hewitt gave Haughmond the lead on 16 minutes. Mike Perks gave the ball away in a dangerous position, allowing Hewitt to fire past Pemberton. Khalsa hit straight back, a great block by Aiden Jehu denying Craig Bannister after excellent work by Marvin Nisbett down the right.

Pemberton produced a great save from Daryl Rogers on 23 minutes before at the other end Nisbett struck the bar from an angle.

Khalsa equalised on 35 minutes, Perks producing a brilliant through ball for Nisbett who raced clear and finished in style past Sam Jones. Three minutes later, Bannister put the visitors ahead.

The second half was a scrappy affair with little noteworthy action until the 67th minute when Perks was fouled on the edge of the area and Bannister curled home the free-kick to make it 3-1. Bannister might have got his hat-trick on 76 minutes, but his lobbed shot from range flew just over.

Moments later, Haughmond made it 3-2, Chris Waterhouse hesitating in the danger zone and allowing substitute Mark Jones the opportunity to finish in convincing fashion.

Khalsa travel to face third-placed Gornal on Saturday kick off 3pm.

# Fellows looking for more consistency to his performances

WALSALL'S Jordan Fellows believes consistency is all that's separated him from Great Britain's top performers at the Delancey British National Alpine Ski Championships so far.

The British field got even stronger in the presence of Dave Ryding on Friday, as the two-time Olympian took to Tignes' slopes for the Slalom.

And Fellows, aged 17, was hoping to put down a solid set of runs after after a frustrating two days. he failed to complete the course in Thursday's Giant Slalom and the Slalom proved a similar story – though Fellows admits bad luck played its part – bringing his National Championships to a disappointing end.

However, there are National Junior Championships GS and Slalom races still to go over the weekend, and Fellows is confident more success will follow on from the British Under-18 Downhill silver he bagged on Tuesday.

"I was just unlucky in the slalom, my inside ski popped," he said.

"I just need to work on the consistency a bit more. Hopefully I can kick on in the Junior Championships now and get some results down."

# PLAY-OFF BID SUFFERS BLOW

**Hednesford Town 0 Oxford City 2**

**HEDNESFORD Town's fading Vanarama Conference North play-off hopes took what could prove to be a fatal blow as they slipped to defeat against Oxford City.**

Rob Smith's men, struggling for form and confidence, conceded a goal in each half to a visiting side who now very much look like dark horses for mounting a late play-off push.

With no match on Saturday, Hednesford, for so long camped in the top five after a fantastic run of form over Christmas and New Year, could be seven points back with only 12 games left by the time they face Solihull Moors on Easter Monday.

The Pitmen's all-round performance in a game that very much fell into the 'must-win' category was hugely disappointing for the near 500 Hednesford fans watching. Early signs were positive as the home side pressed their opponents into a number of defensive mistakes.

However, once Luke Coulson ran beyond his opposing wing-back Glenn Walker into space left by a napping back three and beat Dan Crane, Rob Smith's side faced an uphill task.

The effort and commitment of the players, personified by Richard Batchelor's attempts to win the midfield battle against the impressive Jeremy Balby and Tom Winters, couldn't be questioned but a lack of punch in attack and a porous defence were Hednesford's undoing.

Their fate was all but sealed on 54 minutes. The Pitmen had pushed as they chased an equaliser, but it was still too easy for Adi Yussuf to sprint beyond Chris Westwood and finish confidently.

Marvin Robinson's looping header wide was the closest the home side came to testing De La Cruz.

**Hednesford** Town: Crane, Hurst, Westwood, Bailey (Todd 48), Tunnicliffe, Thorley (Thomas 63), Osborne, Walker, Robinson, Rushton (Strain 55), Batchelor. Subs not used: Kerry, Diggin.

**Oxford** City: De la Cruz, Coulson (23), Lapoujade, Del Alamo, Henderson, Santiago, Jackson, Fofani, Yussuf (54) (Wilson 74), Balby (Benjamin 70), Winters (Barcelos 79). Subs not used: Stonehouse, Scott. Attendance: 520

Jamey Osborne gets there first for the Pitmen against Oxford

# Agent wrong on blackmail claim – boss

WOLVES insisted they have not blackmailed contract rebel Ibrahim Keita – and have in fact tabled three "very good" contract offers.

The 19-year-old striker's agent Philippe Kontostavlos claimed his client had been given a 'sign or you won't play' ultimatum over his two-year deal.

But head coach Kenny Jackett insists that was never the case.

He said: "We've made Ibrahim Keita three very good and improved offers and he's turned those down, which we're disappointed with but we understand that's his choice. He doesn't see his future being here now. I think his agent's choice of words and his stance are wrong, but that's his opinion.

"For the short period of the season left, we've then decided to work with other players because places in our under-18s and under-21s aren't easy to come by.

"If Ibra then decides his future is not with us, we're disappointed but he has that right and then after that we have to move on with the next player."

The club have only recently excluded Keita, who is out of contract at the end of the season, from playing as it became clear he was going to leave as they weren't prepared to offer anywhere near the wages he was demanding.

Talks have been going on since August. Had they agreed to his demands, Keita, who has never played a senior game, would have become the second highest-paid player in the under-21s and been earning as much as some first-team players.

Wolves will be seeking compensation from Keita's next club as he is under 24 and therefore not entitled to leave under the Bosman ruling.

# Keeper: Saddlers need to get nasty

GOALKEEPER Richard O'Donnell believes Walsall must get nasty if they want to climb the League One table.

With the team just three points above the drop zone heading into Friday's six pointer with Notts County, the 26-year-old stopper sees developing a "nasty streak" is one way they can improve.

"You can be the nicest person off the pitch but at times you have got to be nasty on it.

"I think sometimes we have lacked that bit of aggression in our game and it is something we can work on for the rest of this season and towards next season."

Meanwhile the Saddlers have recalled 20-year-old winger Kieron Morris from a loan spell at Conference outfit Wrexham.

★★★

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